

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on September 28, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Auburn post office located in Auburn, West Virginia. The petition for review was filed by Save the Auburn Post Office Committee and the Auburn Town Council (Petitioners) and is postmarked September 22, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than October 13, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: September 29, 2011

Attachment

**REASONS
FOR NOT CLOSING
AUBURN, WV
POST OFFICE**

Losing the Auburn Post Office will be detrimental to our community.

Auburn citizens walk, ride 4-wheelers and vehicles to the post office on a daily basis. Hardly a time goes by that you do not see a neighbor when you go to the post office.

We pass our community bulletin board (a window where we tape notes on) going up the walk to the post office. If the post office is closed no one will go up the walk.

“Blood Run Hill” will have to be crossed to get to the post office at Troy to pick up certified mail etc. This will be extremely hard for those who work because no one works in Troy, nor do they pass it on the way to work etc.

Since Auburn is in Ritchie County our schools are in Ritchie County not in Gilmer County where Troy is. We shop in Harrisville, Glenville and Coxs Mills mostly.

One post office should be left in each geographic area if some post offices must close.

Auburn and Coxs Mills routes lie in two valleys connected by a small hill.

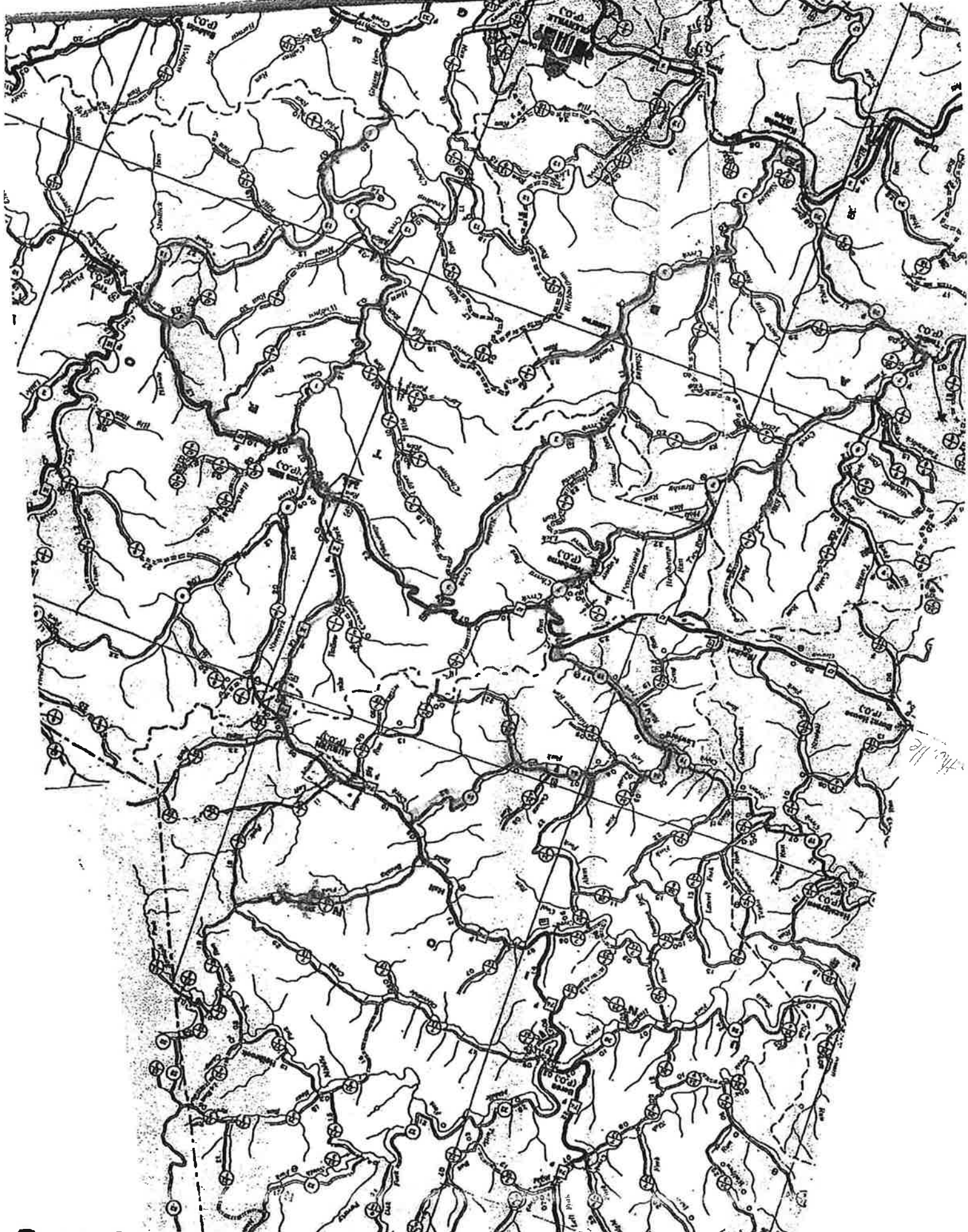
If Auburn closes it will be 667 square miles without a post office.

Troy is across the mountain ("bloody run hill") in the next valley.

That valley has three post offices within 7.8 miles –Troy, Linn and Alum Bridge.

We will have to travel 9.6 x 2 miles to pick up certified etc.

Maps are attached.



COAL TRAINING CAMP ROUTES



● Closed Post Offices

~~thick line~~ Main Road

Auburn still has more rented post office boxes than Troy.

Troy only has only 37 total. Don't know how many are rented. If all 47 box holders went to Troy to rent a box, they certainly could not handle them in their tiny post office. Auburn has 126 boxes total.

Auburn has nearly 50 rented at present. It had nearly 100 in the recent past. The last postmaster told people Auburn was going to close and people went to the route prematurely.

Auburn office space is several times that of Troy and has its own bathroom.

Additionally Troy has a safety issue in that they pile packages in front of exit door.

Troy is very small. Only a part of the building is rented. They have to go through an unrented storage area part to get to the bath room which they are allowed to use.

When they get packages they pile them in front of the "exit door". This presents a safety issue.

Where are they going to get the space to put the Auburn case and mail in their office?

Are they going to rent more space at an additional cost to the post office?

Auburn is a much better choice with plenty of space and its own bathroom.

Postal management and postal employees have caused Auburn Post Office to lose revenue.

Also it has cost the post the post office more money to operate overall.

First – Auburn does not get all of its revenue off its rural route. The carrier has refused a stamp credit. He gets his stamp stock out of Troy. Troy even cashes checks made out to the Auburn Post Office.

Rumor has it that Troy also hand delivers stamps to Glenville and Pennsylvania. (Postmaster used to work in Glenville. Carrier is married to woman in PA)

Second – The administration of the joint Auburn and Coxs Mills route used to be out of Auburn. It was moved to Coxs Mills which at one time only had one box rented. When Coxs Mills closed it was taken across the mountain to Troy.

This extended the route mileage and made Troy a level 13 from a 11. This action cost the Troy post office more to operate.

The route should have come back to Auburn.

Third – The last permanent postmaster at Auburn told people the office was going to close. Customers closed their boxes and got out on the route.

This cost the post office overall more to operate by carriers. Loss of revenue to Auburn was approximately 40 boxes.

Proposals to close Auburn had mistakes in them. We have got them to correct most of them (see attachment). There are several remaining.

Final Determination to Close – dated 09/02/2011 (Attached)

1. No postmaster retired in 2010. The last to retire was in 1999. There have been 3 postmasters since then. Two moved to post offices closer to their homes at the same level. The last one was given a big promotion from a level 11 to a level 18.
2. Questionnaires were **only** delivered to post office box customers. Customers on the routes had to find out and ask for them.
3. 275 signatures. We counted more and have added some since.
4. Postmaster vacancy question. This report differs than what postal official Bob Cavender said April 30 in a meeting in Parkersburg which Senator Joe Manchin III arranged. Mr. Cavender said offices without current postmasters were being held for employees who may be laid off.
5. **Auburn is incorporated** – not unincorporated. Auburn has an active town council which is at present working on a sewer system for Auburn. Auburn also has sidewalks and street lights. The street lights make it safer for our post office.
6. Item no. 17, page 1 does not include replacement cost of getting the Troy HC driver 9.6 miles to Auburn. It only has 2 miles for the town delivery.
7. We believe the rent for the Auburn post office could be cut in half if they only asked.
8. \$3,630 replacement cost is **less than \$12 a day**. Is anyone going to drive to Auburn and put up the mail for that amount?



08/05/2011

SAVE THE AUBURN PO COMMITTEE

PO BOX 65
AUBURN, WV 26325

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Auburn Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- Item Nbr: 1 Page Nbr: 1 - A correction to the official record has been made to reflect the Postmaster retired on Jan 30, 2010.
- Item Nbr: 7 Page 2 - The picture represents the exit from the Auburn post office. Item Nbr: 13 Page Nbr 1. This form was the Administrative postmaster/OIC comments form and will not be changed. The additional business were added to Item Nbr 18 and will be included in the Revised proposal. Item 14-2 - The County Sheriff and Postal Inspection Service were notified of the study and asked to respond with details of any vandalism reports. Item Nbr: 15 Page Nbr: 1 - Para 1, The information given was added to reflect separate entrances. Para 7, The information concerning the PMR was added to reflect loyal service. Para 14, Customers have the option of placing a lock on their rural mailbox or purchasing a rural type mailbox that comes with a lock and key. Rural delivery provides customers the opportunity to receive their mail at their home thereby eliminating the need to travel to and from the Post Office. Item Nbr: 16, Page Nbr 1&2 - The information given was added to Item 16. Item Nbr: 21 Page Nbr 1 - This will show corrected in the revised proposal. Item no. 23 Page No. 1 - 180 questionnaires were distributed to the Auburn community via Post Office box and HCR deliveries in the community. All returned customer questionnaires will be included in the official record. Item Nbr: 24 pages 1 thru 4 - There were only 70 signatures on the Community meeting roster. Item Nbr 26 page 1 - The retirement date has been changed, the correction will show on the revised copy. Item Nbr: 27 page Nbr 1 - The petition was received after the proposal to close was posted in the Auburn post office. The petition has been added to the official record. Item Nbr 29, Page Nbr 2 - The economic savings is based on current figures and does not include possible negotiations. Postmaster relief's are not career employees and cannot be used as a permanent replacement. The US Postal Service is required to maintain 6 day delivery. CBU's are very low maintenance, keys are issued with the assignment of your CBU box and the Postal Service will review the community for donated space to place the CBU's. Item Nbr 33, Page Nbr 2. 1) The postmaster dates have been changed and will show corrected on the revised proposal. 2) The Postal Service is currently undergoing organizational changes, each post office is required to meet certain requirements, if not met a post office review study will be initiated. Item Nbr: 33 Page Nbr 3 9) There are a number of rural type locking mailboxes that does not allow a hand to reach inside. In accordance with the Post Office Manual 101, Chapter 2, Section 25, paragraph 251. The Post Office community meeting can be held anytime after the questionnaire is sent and before any final determination is expected to be made. There were 3 weeks notice given prior to the community meeting date. A second community meeting is not scheduled.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.
If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Paul Bradshaw at (304) 561-1251.

Sincerely,

Cathy Maxwell
Manager, Post Office Operations
PO Box 59982
Charleston, WV, 25350-9992

**Save the Auburn Post Office Committee
P O Box 65
Auburn, WV 26325-0065
304/349-2090**

July 20, 2011

**District Manager
Appalachian District
United States Postal Service
Post Office Box 5992
Charleston, WV 25350**

RE: Docket 1353656 – 26325

Dear Sir:

In reviewing the above Proposal to close the Auburn WV Post Office and extend service by Highway Contract Route Service we have found errors etc. in the following Item Numbers:

Item Nbr: 1 – Page Nbr. 1

No postmaster retired on 01/03/2008 from Auburn.

Item Nbr: 7 – Page 2

Where was this picture taken and how does it concern the Auburn Post Office?

Item Nbr. 13 – Page Nbr. 1

Auburn Pay Pond, Hire A Hubby, Osborne Construction, Bi-Con Services and Dominion Transmission, Inc. are other business at Auburn.

Item 14 – 2

State Police should have record of mailbox vandalism

Item Nbr. 15 – Page Nbr. 1

- 1. Post Office is in same building as the store but is not in the store. Separate entrance to each.**
- 7. Comment: PMR has served loyally for 16 years with many OIC's.**
- 14. There are only 37 post office boxes at Troy. What if all 47 box holders at Auburn would want the security of a locked box?**

Item Nbr. 16 – Page Nbr. 1 and 2

- 1. Police protection also provided by WV State Police**
- 2. School location is not Troy. Schools are at Ellenboro, Pennsboro, Harrisville and Smithville. Only by exception can Troy be used and it is slated to be closed.**
- 3. Zipskinny demographic information lists a Population of 356 for Auburn. Ritchie County showed a 1% growth rate from 2000. (3 new families moved to Auburn this past month; also Dominion Transmission Inc. with 30 employees and Bi-Con services with 38 employees just started up.)**
- 5. Cottage industries commuters and gas companies also make up the community.**
- 6. Post office employees have always helped the uneducated and elderly fill out money orders etc.**

Item Nbr. 21 – Page Nbr. 1

Again, no postmaster retired on 01/03/2008 from Auburn

Item No. 23 – Page No. 1

- 1. Questionnaires were distributed to 47 post office box holders only. HC and Rural customers had to ask for them. It is questionable that 133 found out about them and asked for them. Also that 37 expressed no opinion.**

Item Nbr. 24 – Pages 1 thru 4

70 plus concerned citizens showed up to protest the closing of the post office

Item Nbr 26 – Page Nbr. 1

No postmaster retired on 1/30/2008 from Auburn.

Item Nbr. 27 – Page Nbr. 1

Petitions with 356 signatures were submitted to Post Office management on June 22, 2011.

Item Nbr. 29 – Page Nbr. 2

Economic Savings — No contact has been made to Russell Locke, lease holder, to reduce rental costs. Also a reduction in hours could cost as much as half. Also employment of the PMR would not cost as much as a career employee.

Replacement cost of CBU – What about maintance, liability, key cost, snow clearance and space rental etc.?

Item Nbr. 33, Page Nbr. 2

1. The postmaster left on an OIC assignment on January 3, 2008. He returned shortly as postmaster before finally leaving for a big promotion in January 2009.
3. Why does the post office not consider having post offices in all geographic areas and not just when they do not replace a postmaster. If one of the three post offices across the mountain within 7.8 miles were closed, the postmaster there could be transferred to Auburn.

Item Nbr. 33 – Page Nbr. 3

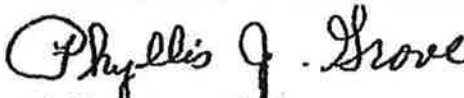
9. A locked box slot with enough space to put in prescription medicine bottles would be large enough for a hand to reach in and steal. (With the meth and prescription stealing in this area they would not be safe.

We respectfully ask for a written response to this letter within 7 days of receipt.

Also, when will the next meetings be held as promised in our last meeting in April?

Sincerely,

Save the Auburn Post Office Committee



Phyllis J. Grove, Chairman

Enclosures:

Demographic info.

Cc: USPO Eastern Vice President
Senator Joe Manchin
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV
Honorable David B. McKinley

Are post office officials trying to say we don't have a town or what by the picture in item 7 page 2? They say it represents the exit from the Auburn post office.

We have tried to identify the picture but no one can (attached)

Attached are pictures of our town. Auburn has street lights and sidewalks. Town council is working on putting in a sewer.





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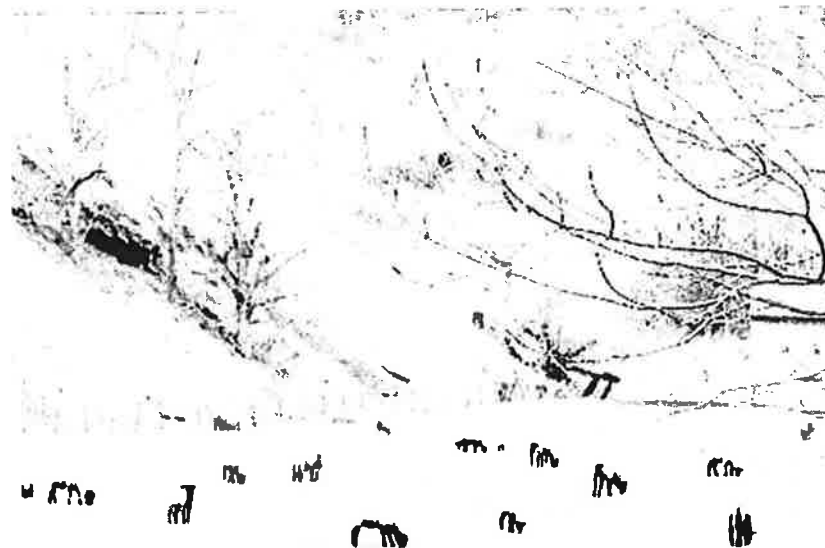
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THOUSANDS OF RURAL POST OFFICES TARGETED FOR CLOSURE - Former Auburn Postmistress Says It Saves Little Money

(03/30/2011)



Town of Auburn is a shade of its' former self ...



... surrounded by Ritchie County farms

By Bob Weaver

Ritchie County's Auburn post office is one of many US Postal offices slated for closure, one of several currently on the block in West Virginia.

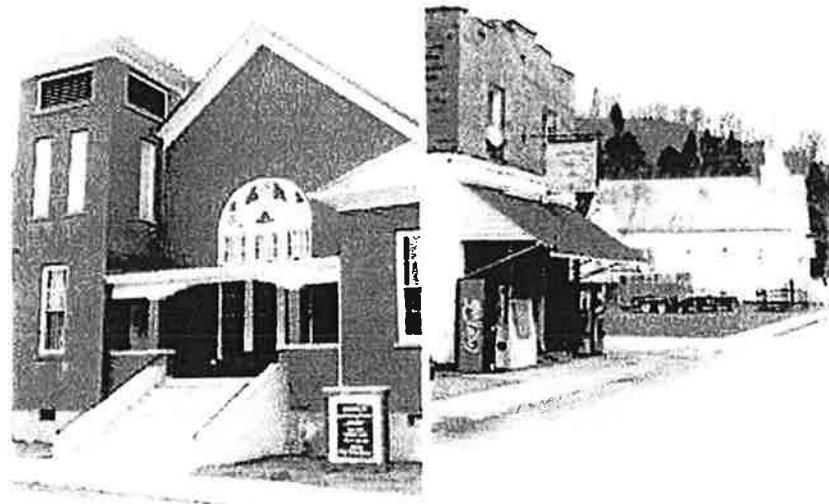
Retired postmistress Phyllis Grove (right) says, "Many efforts have been made to close our office in the past, and they've even scheduled meetings without the public being aware."

Grove, a native of Braxton County, settled in the rural farm community after her retirement from the postal system in 1999.

She says thousands of rural post offices are being targeted, even though closing the small offices would only save seven-tenths of one percent of the post office budget.

So far, only the people who have in-house boxes have been notified about the latest closure meeting, set for the Auburn Community Building at 6 p.m. on April 8.

"We're hoping to pack the center with folks who do not want their office closed," she said. Petitions protesting the closure are circulating in the community.



**The Baptist Church resides on Main Street
and nearby the town's last store is closed**

The Village of Auburn, still an incorporated town, had a post office before West Virginia became a state. It was known as Bone Creek, Virginia. Auburn

was the site of the last one-room school to be closed in West Virginia.

The village was home to Stephen McCormick (1784-1875) noted inventor and manufacturer, who introduced the cast-iron plow to America.

Chester Osborne is the mayor of Auburn, with a population of about 100. The town has active churches, civic organizations and a community building.

"We live in a time when communities no longer matter, bigger is better. Those things important to small communities have been removed, like schools and post offices. After a while we're just a number, a consumer, and people are no longer connected in a meaningful way," said Grove.

"We hope the community will turn out for the hearing," she concluded.



Postal clerk sorting mail for rural community, now facing closure

See related stories [POSTAL SERVICE IN TROUBLE. RATES GOING UP - PO's Fail Business 101. Offices Not In Phone Book](#)

[POSTAL SERVICE CLOSING OFFICES IN POOR, RURAL AREAS - Creston PO Expired Lease An Example](#)

[US POSTAL CLOSING MOSTLY RURAL POST OFFICES - A Closure Coming To You Soon](#)

In the last census Ritchie County has increased in population.

Town's population are to be released soon.

(See census report on Ritchie County attached)

Dominion Transmission Inc. is currently building a huge gas transfer station at Auburn. It will take a year or more to complete. This and the gas drilling in the area are bringing in more people.

Ritchie County, West Virginia

People QuickFacts	Ritchie County	West Virginia
Population, 2010	10,449	1,852,994
Population, percent change, 2000 to 2010	1.0%	2.5%
Population, 2000	10,343	1,808,344
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2009	5.6%	5.8%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2009	21.8%	21.2%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2009	16.1%	15.8%
Female persons, percent, 2009	49.9%	51.0%
White persons, percent, 2010 (a)	98.7%	93.9%
Black persons, percent, 2010 (a)	0.2%	3.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2010 (a)	0.1%	0.2%
Asian persons, percent, 2010 (a)	0.1%	0.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2010 (a)	0.0%	Z
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2010	0.8%	1.5%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2010 (b)	0.5%	1.2%
White persons not Hispanic, persons, 2010	98.3%	93.2%
Living in same house 1 year ago, pct 1 yr old & over, 2005-2009	91.8%	87.0%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2005-2009	0.2%	1.3%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2005-2009	1.8%	2.3%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2005-2009	81.2%	81.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2005-2009	9.0%	17.1%
Veterans, 2005-2009	1,228	171,080
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2005-2009	25.5	25.3
Housing units, 2009	5,704	893,771
Homeownership rate, 2005-2009	78.4%	74.3%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2005-2009	4.4%	12.2%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2005-2009	\$75,100	\$91,400
Households, 2005-2009	4,092	746,419
Persons per household, 2005-2009	2.52	2.37
Per capita money income in past 12 months (2009 dollars) 2005-2009	\$19,092	\$20,891
Median household income, 2009	\$34,209	\$37,423
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009	20.5%	17.8%
Business QuickFacts	Ritchie County	West Virginia
Private nonfarm establishments, 2008	216	39,641 ¹
Private nonfarm employment, 2008	2,857	592,022 ¹
Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2008	16.3%	6.1% ¹
Nonemployer establishments, 2008	747	90,727

ZIPskinny

get the skinny on that ZIP

26325
get it!

AK | AL | AR | AZ | CA | CO | CT | DC | DE | FL | GA | HI | IA | ID | IL | IN | KS | KY | LA | MA | MD | ME | MI | MN | MO | MS | MT
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(AUBURN WV)

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General Information:

Latitude: 39.095644
Longitude: -80.861827
Population: 356
Density: 14.58
(people per square land mile)
Housing Units: 181
Land Area: 24.42 sq. mi.
Water Area: 0 sq. mi.

AdChoices

Social Indicators

Educational Achievement:

(among people 25 years or older)

Less than 9th grade: 21.9%
9th-12th grade (nongrad): 19.5%
High school graduate: 41.9%
Some college: 10.7%
Associate degree: 3.3%
Bachelors degree: 2.3%
Graduate/Professional: 0.5%
High school or higher: 58.6%
Bachelors or higher: 2.8%

Marital Status:

(among people 15 years or older)

Never married: 29.8%
Married: 45.8%
Separated: 3.3%
Widowed: 13.8%
Divorced: 7.3%
Stability/Newcomer Appeal:
Same home 5+ years: 54.2%

Social and economic indicators
based on 2000 Census sample data.

Green = Above U.S. Avg Red = Below U.S. Avg
Red bkg. = Above U.S. Avg Green bkg. = Below U.S. Avg

Economic Indicators

Household Income

<\$10,000 33.9%
\$10,000-\$14,999 15.3%
\$15,000-\$24,999 19.4%
\$25,000-\$34,999 17.7%
\$35,000-\$49,999 7.3%
\$50,000-\$74,999 3.2%
\$75,000-\$99,999 1.6%
\$100,000-\$149,999 0%
\$150,000-\$199,999 1.6%
\$200,000+ 0%

Occupation

(among employed persons over 16)

Mgt./Professional 12.8%
Service 29.1%
Sales/Office 8.1%
Farm/Fishing/Forestry 4.7%
Construction/Extraction/Maint. 7%
Production/Transportation 38.4%
Unemployment/Poverty 2.2%
Unemployed 2.2%
Below Poverty Line 38%

Median Household Income: \$15,357

demographics:

Race

Hispanic/Latino: 0.3%
White*: 98.3%
Black*: 0%
Native American*: 1%
Asian*: 0.3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*: 0%
Other*: 0%
Multiracial*: 0.3%

* Does not include individuals
in this racial group
who identify as Hispanic/Latino.

Age

	Male	Female	Both	
% of Males	% of All	% of Females	% of All	
0-9 years:	13.1%	6.7%	14.5%	7%
10-19 years:	21.3%	11%	12.7%	6.2%
20-29 years:	9.8%	5.1%	15%	7.3%
30-39 years:	9.8%	5.1%	13.9%	6.7%
40-49 years:	15.8%	8.1%	15.6%	7.6%
50-59 years:	12.6%	6.5%	10.4%	5.1%
60-69 years:	11.5%	5.9%	8.7%	4.2%
70-79 years:	3.3%	1.7%	4.6%	2.2%
80+ years:	2.7%	1.4%	4.6%	2.2%
All Ages:	Male: 51.4%	Female: 48.6%		
Median Ages:	36.4 yrs.	35.9 yrs.	36.2 yrs.	

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It would appear that the post office managers reward those postmasters who close an office.

Postmaster James Richards was rewarded a level 18 post office from a level 11 office. He was given the level 18 over other higher postmasters. Besides downgrading the office by telling people it was going to close he took sensitive material out of Auburn. (Nancy Powers recovered it from the road. He left it on top of his car upon leaving. She returned it to the post office the next day.)

Pam Bonnet took our routes with her when Cocks Mills was closed. This created a level 13 for her from a level 11. This move put her closer to her home but cost the post office more to run.

It would appear the post office managers are more for serving their postmasters than the customers.

One or two more meetings were promised by Poom Eric Gossa but they did not schedule another meeting.

Auburn citizens were promised one or two more meetings on April 8. This was in our town meeting with postal officials.

No more meetings are scheduled and they plan to close our office on October 4, 2011.

See attached channel 5 and 12 TV tapes and Glenville Democrat editorial.

Editorials

Deceived by Feds—

Auburn Post Office has apparently been closed ... permanently

From what we've been told from Auburn residents who work in Glenville, the Auburn Post Office has been apparently closed ... without a public hearing.

My, the economics of the United States Post Office must be in pretty bad shape, if they spend the money to send in officials to Auburn to get the community's reaction to the proposed closure and promise them a return visit at a later date for a public hearing. Maybe the US Postal Service's Washington, D.C. "brass" just decided another way of cutting costs is to "cut off the public's (their customers) comments" on proposed community post office closures.

To the contrary, State Delegate Lynwood "Woody" Ireland (R-7th Dist.), who attended that initial April 8, 2011 public hearing at the Auburn Community Center, voiced a strong insistence that the postal officials from Clarksburg let the community know if the post office was in jeopardy, "before any decision was made in Washington, D.C." As he stated, "We have to know that the closure is serious, so that we can inform our Congressional representatives and ask them for their help in keeping this post office open."

Apparently, this State Delegate's request went unheeded.

As a bigger "slap in the face," Delegate Ireland, who is a respected State Delegate at the West Virginia State Capitol, lives only a short distance from the Auburn Post Office.

Of course, the two postal gents, who handled the April 8 public meeting, admitted that they didn't know "what was what" when it came to closing that Post Office. They were just sent there to take down the opinions of the local citizens, relative to "if" the USPS in Washington decided that they wanted to close that unit, as a cost-savings matter.

Although Auburn is located in Ritchie County, it is only about three-to-four miles from Simmons Store at Cox's Mills in Gilmer County. Also, many people living in the Auburn community work in Gilmer County. Additionally, this newspaper sells a lot of copies to the Ritchie residents there, so we'd like to see regular mail service continued in that area, where the people depend on getting Gilmer County news and advertisements. Finally, for many Auburn residents, it's easier to shop in Glenville and other locations in Gilmer County, which are much closer than Harrisville or Ellenboro. Hence, this closure is a commercial and economic regional disruption, as well.

Auburn's Post Office is, therefore, important. At the same time, postal people have told this Senior Editor — off the record — that the Auburn mail can easily be handled by the Troy Post Office, but that assertion remains to be proven.

Our editorial problem with this whole post office closure issue is that supposedly highly-ranked postal officials promised a full house of about 70 people at the April 8 community hearing that another "official" public hearing would take place, if the postal higher ups decided to close the Auburn Post Office. But, sadly and badly, that just didn't happen, thereby calling into question the honesty, integrity and character of "big wig" postal officers, from wherever they originate — Washington or West Virginia.

Auburn Mayor Chester Osborne, retired Postmaster Barbara Watson, and many other citizens who believed the postal officers that evening cannot find much reason to ever take as gospel what the United States Post Office claims as being true again.

Shame on the Washington, D.C.-based officials, or whomever made this awfully untruthful and dishonest decision to close Auburn without an official Public Hearing!

DHC, Sr., Publisher-Sr. Editor

MEETINGS

CONCERNING

AUBURN POST OFFICE

Meeting April 1, 1971
on Post Office

Phyllis G. Grove	PO Box 65 Auburn WV 26325
Violet Handlanger	12376 Auburn Rd. Auburn, W.V. 26325
Mary L. Hadlock	P.O. Box 51, Auburn, W.V. 26325
Joseph Douglas Frederick	P.O. Box 43 Auburn W.V. 26325-0043
Violet A. Harline	PO Box 6 Auburn WV 26325
Tom Harline	P.O. Box 6. Auburn WV 26325.
Chester Gibson	P.O. Box 29 Auburn W 26325
Edward Fisher	P.O. Box 14 Auburn WV 26325
Dorena Osborne	P.O. Box 29 Auburn WV 26325

People attending meeting on March 21 concerning post office

Gerald P. Bartlett 2157 San Valleyth Auburn^{WV} 26325-
 Cletha Bartlett
 James B. Louder 10467 Auburn Rd
 Joseph Douglas Frederick 73 Frederick Rd. P.O. Box 43 Auburn 26325
 Marmaden Collins P.O. Box 54 Auburn W.V. 26325
 Eileen Fisher P.O. Box 14 Auburn W.V. 26325
 Violet Henline P.O. Box 6 Auburn W.V. 26325
 Tom Smith P.O. Box 102 Auburn W.V. 26325
 Sherry Combs P.O. Box 1 Auburn, W.V. 26325
 Siona Osborne 2197 Riddle Hill Rd
 Stacey Jerry Riddle 12376 Auburn Rd. Auburn, W.V. 26325
 Violet Hardbarger P.O. Box 87 Auburn, W.V. 26325
 Mary L. Zadda P.O. Box 87 Auburn W.V. 26325
 E. Paul Carl P.O. Box 87 Auburn W.V. 26325
 David Casto P.O. Box 87 Auburn W.V. 26325
 Bill Winans 11939 Auburn Rd Auburn WV 26325
 Brenda Lilly P.O. Box 63 Auburn WV 26325
 Bert E. Pitt Jr Rt 1 Box 16 Auburn WV 26325
 Dennis M. Mason P.O. Box 4 Auburn W.V. 26325
 Nellie Workman 441 Workman Lane Auburn 26325
 LARRY WORKMAN 441 WORKMAN LANE AUBURN 26325
 Joe Smith Rt 1 Box 2 Auburn 26325
 Prasha Pitt P.O. Box 82 Auburn WV 26325
 Barbara Watson 11423 Auburn Rd, Auburn, W.V. 26325
 Walter O. Allen P.O. Box 201, Auburn WV 26325 Mayor
 Chester Osborne Jr > P.O. Box 13, Auburn, WV 26325
 Terrence Osborne >
 Nancy Powers > P.O. Box 94 Auburn WV 26325
 Anthony Jones >
 CD Wolfe > Rt. 1 Box 2A Auburn WV 26325
 Dorothy M. Workman

Carolyn Pridemore - P.O. Box 3 Auburn WV 26325

Melissa Edwards P.O. Box 13 Auburn WV 26325

Angela A Jones P.O. Box 13 Auburn WV 26325

Terry Lilly P.O. Box 63 Auburn WV 26325

Deanna Estabane P.O. Box 29 Auburn, WV, 26325

Phyllis J. Grove P.O. Box 65 Auburn, WV 26325

People attending Meeting on April 8, 2011 concerning Post Office

	Name	Address
1	Barbara Ratliff	P.O. Box 92
2	Erna VanHout	828 Brushy Fork Rd
3	Barbara Watson	P.O. Box 44
4	Tammy Osbourne	PO Box 12
5	Chester Osbourne Jr	PO Box 12
6	William Osbourne	PO Box 12
7	Reba Osbourne	PO Box 12
8	Chester Osbourne	Box 29
9	Dreama Osbourne	Box 29
10	Norman Collins	P.O. Box 54
	Auburn Town Recorder	P.O. Box 37
11	Geraldine Lusk	2101 Riddle Hill Rd.
12	Mary L. Ladd	P.O. Box 51
13	Harold Osbourne	RT 1 Box 157 west Union
14	Melvin B. Lusk	8660 Auburn Road
15	Elaine Casto	PO BOX 87
16	David Casto	PO BOX 87
17	Kevin Snyders	878 Riddle Hill
18	John Riddle	2642 RIDDLE HILL RD.
19	Rick Blum	1438 RIDGE HILL RD
20	Stacey Riddle	2197 Riddle Hill RD
21	Carolyn Tidmore	PO Box 3
22	Nancy Powers	PO Box 94
23	Les Blythe	1438 Riddle Hill Rd
24	Gerald P. Bailett	2157 Sunc valley Rd
25	Jerese Sparks	PO 113
26	Leona Sparks	RR 1 Box 38 A

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 27 | Allen Blackburn | P.O. Box 35 |
| 28 | Michelle Hornsley | P.O. Box 112 |
| 29 | Wanda Gray | 124 Dolphin Dr |
| 30 | Jerry Gray | 124 Dolphin Dr |
| 31 | Doug Frederick | P.O. Box 43 Auburn W.V. |
| 32 | Udit Hendon | P.O. Box 4 Auburn W.V. |
| 33 | David N. Corran | P.O. Box 112, Phenixville 26351 |
| 34 | Don Hulin | P.O. Box 6 Auburn W.V. 26325 |
| 35 | Eileen Fide | P.O. Box 14 Chewand 26325 |
| 36 | Harry Kerster | P.O. Box 601 Auburn WV 263 |
| 37 | Sari Kerster | |
| 38 | Hogan Kerster | |
| 39 | Cathleen Kerster | |
| 40 | Kit & Linda J. | |
| 41 | Brenda Kelly | P.O. Box 63 Auburn WV 263 |
| 42 | Terry Lilly | P.O. Box 63 Auburn WV 2632 |
| 43 | Jennifer Methoney | The Pennsboro News |
| 44 | Ronald L. Osborne | 1979 Auburn R.D. WV 26- |
| 45 | Sheryl Keren Island | 312 Pullman, Ok. T. 26424 |
| 46 | Barbara Hornsley | P.O. Box 84 |
| 47 | Ricky Brown | |
| 48 | Joe Smith | P.O. Box 7 |

- 49 Nancy Fowler PO Box 94 Auburn WV 26325
50 Carolyn Rudeman PO Box 3 Auburn WV 26325
51 Elaine Casto P.O. Box 87 Auburn WV 26325
52 David Casto P.O. Box 87 Auburn WV 26325
53 Stacey Riddle 2197 Riddle Hill Rd. Auburn, WV 26325
54 Phyllis J. Stone PO Box 5, Auburn WV 26325

People attending Meeting

- 1 Phyllis Grover P O Box 65
- 2 Doug Frederick P O Box 43
- 3 Merrilee Grove
- 4 Gerald P. Bartlett
- 5 Sierra Osborne
- 6 Barbara Ratliff P.O. Box 92

Save the Auburn Post Office Committee
P O Box 65
Auburn, WV 26325-0065
304/349-2090

July 20, 2011

District Manager
Appalachian District
Post Office Box 5992
Charleston, WV 25350

RE: Docket 1353656 – 26325

Dear Sir:

In reviewing the above Proposal to close the Auburn WV Post Office and extend service by Highway Contract Route Service we have found errors etc. in the following Item Numbers:

Item Nbr: 1 – Page Nbr. 1

No postmaster retired on 01/03/2008 from Auburn.

Item Nbr: 7 - Page 2

Where was this picture taken and how does it concern the Auburn Post Office?

Item Nbr. 13 – Page Nrb. 1

Auburn Pay Pond, Hire A Hubby, Osborne Construction, Bi-Con Services and Dominion Transmission, Inc. are other business at Auburn.

Item 14 – 2

State Police should have record of mailbox vandalism

Item Nbr. 15 – Page Nbr. 1

1. Post Office is in same building as the store but is not in the store. Separate entrance to each.
7. Comment: PMR has served loyally for 16 years with many OIC's.
14. There are only 37 post office boxes at Troy. What if all 47 box holders at Auburn would want the security of a locked box?

Item Nbr. 16 – Page Nbr. 1 and 2

1. Police protection also provided by WV State Police
2. School location is not Troy. Schools are at Ellenboro, Pennsboro, Harrisville and Smithville. Only by exception can Troy be used and it is slated to be closed.
3. Zipskinny demographic information lists a Population of 356 for Auburn. Ritchie County showed a 1% growth rate from 2000. (3 new families moved to Auburn this past month; also Dominion Transmission Inc. with 30 employees and Bi-Con services with 38 employees just started up.)
5. Cottage industries commuters and gas companies also make up the community.
6. Post office employees have always helped the uneducated and elderly fill out money orders etc.

Item Nbr. 21 – Page Nbr. 1

Again, no postmaster retired on 01/03/2008 from Auburn

Item No. 23 – Page No. 1

1. Questionnaires were distributed to 47 post office box holders only.
HC and Rural customers had to ask for them. It is questionable that
133 found out about them and asked for them. Also that 37 expressed no opinion.

Item Nbr. 24 – Pages 1 thru 4

70 plus concerned citizens showed up to protest the closing of the post office

Item Nbr 26 – Page Nbr. 1

No postmaster retired on 1/30/2008 from Auburn.

Item Nbr. 27 – Page Nbr. 1

Petitions with 356 signatures were submitted to Post Office management on June 22, 2011.

Item Nbr. 29 – Page Nbr. 2

Economic Savings --- No contact has been made to Russell Locke, lease holder, to reduce rental costs. Also a reduction in hours could cost as much as half. Also employment of the PMR would not cost as much as a career employee.

Replacement cost of CBU – What about maintenance, liability, key cost, snow clearance and space rental etc.?

Item Nbr. 33, Page Nbr. 2

1. The postmaster left on an OIC assignment on January 3, 2008. He returned shortly as postmaster before finally leaving for a big promotion in January 2009.
3. Why does the post office not consider having post offices in all geographic areas and not just when they do not replace a postmaster. If one of the three post offices across the mountain within 7.8 miles were closed, the postmaster there could be transferred to Auburn.

Item Nbr. 33 – Page Nbr. 3

9. A locked box slot with enough space to put in prescription medicine bottles would be large enough for a hand to reach in and steal. (With the meth and prescription stealing in this area they would not be safe.

We respectfully ask for a written response to this letter within 7 days of receipt.

Also, when will the next meetings be held as promised in our last meeting in April?

Sincerely,

Save the Auburn Post Office Committee

Phyllis J. Grove, Chairman

Enclosures: Item Nos.
Demographic Info.

Cc: USPO Eastern Vice President
Senator Joe Manchin
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV
Honorable David B. McKinley

Congressional

Letters

JOE MANCHIN III
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

SUITE 303
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3954

ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

June 23, 2011

Ms. Phyllis J. Grove
PO Box 65
Auburn, West Virginia 26325-0065

Dear Ms. Grove,

Thank you for participating in the postal workshop hosted in Wood County. I appreciate your taking time out of your day to attend this event and wanted to thank you for sharing your suggestions regarding the postal discontinuance studies that are currently being conducted throughout West Virginia. Hearing from West Virginians on this matter is very important to me and I greatly appreciate your input on this issue.

Growing up in a small rural town, I know the importance of the local post office and the role it plays in creating the fabric of a community. I also understand the need for the United States Postal Service to operate in a fiscally responsible manner, which is why I spoke with Postmaster General Donahoe in early April and asked that he carefully consider rural post offices and the unique services that they provide. Again, thank you for your attendance at this event. Should you have additional suggestions in the future related to this issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JM/lg

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

July 7, 2011

Ms. Phyllis J. Grove
Chairman
Save the Auburn Post
Office Committee
Post Office Box 65
Auburn, West Virginia 26325

Dear Phyllis,

Thank you very much for sharing a copy of the 362 signature petition to keep the Auburn Post Office open.

I want to assist the residents of Auburn with keeping their post office and have gotten in touch with the United States Postal Service on their behalf. It usually takes awhile for them to respond, but I will notify you as soon as I hear back from them.

Thanks again, Phyllis, for contacting me. I hope that I will be able to help you. Please know that I will be back in touch with you again shortly.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

STATE OFFICE:

405 CAPITOL STREET, SUITE 508
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
(304) 347-5372
FAX: (304) 347-5371

NORTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE:

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FAIRMONT, WV 26554
(304) 367-0122
FAX: (304) 367-0822

SOUTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE:

220 NORTH KANAWHA STREET, SUITE 1
BECKLEY, WV 25801
(304) 253-9704
FAX: (304) 253-2578

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE:

217 WEST KING STREET, SUITE 307
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FAX: (304) 262-9288

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

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HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3954

ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

July 11, 2011

Ms. Phyllis J. Grove
Chairman
Save the Auburn Post Office Committee
PO Box 65
Auburn, West Virginia 26325-0065

Dear Ms. Grove,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the possible closing of the post office in Auburn. As you know, this post office is one of several post offices in West Virginia currently under a discontinuance study by the United States Postal Service (USPS).

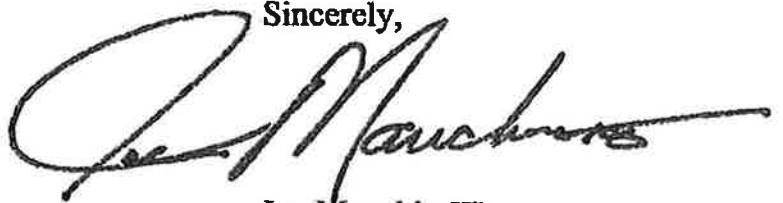
Growing up in the small community of Farmington, I understand the role post offices have in rural communities. West Virginia families are rightly concerned with what might happen if the USPS closes some post offices. As an elected representative, I receive dozens, sometimes hundreds of letters a day from my constituents, many of whom can only reach me by writing a letter. Local post offices are a vital link for West Virginians and many others throughout our country, and it is imperative that mail service remains uncompromised. With that being said, I also understand the concerns of the USPS to operate in a fiscally responsible manner.

For this reason, on April 28th and 29th, I hosted four regional postal workshops to provide citizens in communities that could be potentially affected by closings, the opportunity to meet with USPS Appalachian District Manager, Robert Cavinder, and other USPS officials. Overall, the workshops were positive, productive and allowed for the exchange of important information.

Having received correspondence from others with similar concerns about Auburn, I have already written to USPS officials directly to request their comments about this matter. Knowing of your interest, I am happy to share with you the report USPS officials provided me.

Again, thank you for taking the time to add your voice to this important discussion. If I may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JM/km
Enclosure

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



June 14, 2011

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4804

Dear Senator Manchin:

This is in response to your May 24 letter [REDACTED] of Auburn, regarding the Post Office in that community.

Thank you for sharing [REDACTED] concerns. As you are aware, the U.S. Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. As a result of dramatic declines in mail volume, the Postal Service continues to experience significantly reduced revenue. In fact, over the past five years, mail volume has declined by 43.1 billion pieces, customer visits have decreased by 200 million, and retail transactions have diminished by \$2 billion. In order to sustain universal mail service to the American people, we are taking every action within our control to cut costs and streamline operations across the organization.

Appalachian District officials confirm that the Auburn Post Office is being studied for possible discontinuance. The study is ongoing, and no final decision has been made. Please be assured that postal officials are devoting careful attention to this study, and customers will be notified in advance of any changes that may affect service in their area.


During this process, postal managers will consider the effect on the community and postal employees, the ability to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the affected community, and potential economic savings. Customers of an office considered for closing are provided opportunities, through questionnaires and public meetings, to share their concerns and views both on the action and on mail service alternatives. Before the Postal Service makes a decision to close or consolidate an independent Post Office, we comply with all the stipulations mandated by federal law. All final decisions are subject to review by the independent Postal Regulatory Commission, and the discontinuance procedures contained in Title 39, United States Code, are exercised before an independent Post Office can be permanently closed. If an office is closed, the office name is retained for use in local mailing addresses to preserve community identity.

Page 2

Please be assured that any decision to discontinue operations at the Auburn Post Office will carefully balance our universal service responsibility and our statutory duty to operate in an efficient manner. Consideration of such matters will help ensure that the Postal Service furnishes a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services to the community well into the future.

Thank you for writing. If I can be of assistance in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James K. Carl".

James K. Carl
Government Relations Representative

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

July 25, 2011

Ms. Phyllis J. Grove
Chairman
Save the Auburn Post
Office Committee
Post Office Box 65
Auburn, West Virginia 26325

Dear Phyllis,

Thank you so much for contacting me again about your efforts to save the Auburn Post Office from closure.

So that I may be of further assistance to you in this matter, I have contacted the United States Postal Service again on your behalf. I will ask them to review the errors that you found in their proposal. It will take awhile to get a response, but as soon as I receive one, I'll inform you as soon as possible.

I hope that I will be able to be of assistance to you. Once again, Phyllis, thanks for contacting me. You should be hearing from me again soon.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

STATE OFFICE:
405 CAPITOL STREET, SUITE 508
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
(304) 347-5372
FAX: (304) 347-5371

NORTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE:
118 ADAMS STREET, SUITE 301
FAIRMONT, WV 26554
(304) 367-0122
FAX: (304) 367-0822

SOUTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE:
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(304) 253-9704
FAX: (304) 253-2578

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE:
217 WEST KING STREET, SUITE 307
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401
(304) 262-9285
FAX: (304) 262-9288

DAVID B. MCKINLEY, P.E.
1ST DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

313 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-4172
FAX: (202) 225-7564

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND POWER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 26, 2011

Ms. Phyllis J. Grove
Chairman
Save the Auburn Post Office Committee
PO Box 65
Auburn, WV 26325-0065

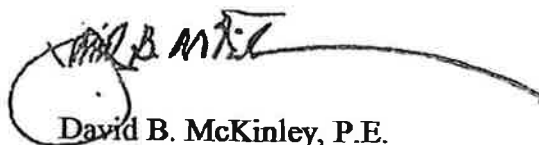
Dear Ms. Grove:

I am writing to let you know that I contacted the Manager of the Appalachian District Office of the U.S. Postal Service on behalf of the Save the Auburn Post Office Committee.

Along with my letter of interest, I submitted your petition, which as you know was signed by 362 individuals who want the Auburn Post Office to remain open. I hope my expression of interest will prove beneficial.

Please don't hesitate to call on me if there is any other way that I can be of service.

Sincerely,



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

DBM/BM

JOE MANCHIN III
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

SUITE 303
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3954

ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

July 28, 2011

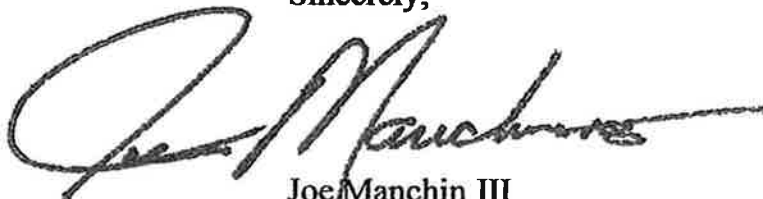
Ms. Phyllis J. Grove
Chairman
Save the Auburn Post Office Committee
PO Box 65
Auburn, West Virginia 26325-0065

Dear Ms. Grove,

Thank you for contacting me and for sharing your concerns about the discontinuance study that the United States Postal Service (USPS) is currently conducting at the Auburn Post Office.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding your inquiry to USPS officials for their review and response. If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III", written in a cursive style.

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JM/ec

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

August 3, 2011

Ms. Phyllis J. Grove
Chairman
Save the Auburn Post
Office Committee
Post Office Box 65
Auburn, West Virginia 26325

Dear Phyllis,

I have received an interim response from the United States Postal Service about my inquiry on your behalf regarding your concerns about the Auburn Post Office.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter I received from them. I hope the information supplied in this letter will answer any questions you may have.

I'll remain in touch with appropriate officials on your behalf, and will let you know at once when I learn of new developments. If there is any other way you feel I can be helpful in the meantime, Phyllis, please let me know.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

STATE OFFICE:
405 CAPITAL STREET, SUITE 508
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
(304) 347-5372
FAX: (304) 347-5371

NORTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE:
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MARTINSBURG, WV 25401
(304) 262-9285
FAX: (304) 262-9288

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

August 10, 2011

Ms. Phyllis J. Grove
Chairman
Save the Auburn Post
Office Committee
Post Office Box 65
Auburn, West Virginia 26325

Dear Phyllis,

I have been contacted by the United States Postal Service about my inquiry on your behalf regarding your concerns about keeping the Auburn Post Office operational.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter I received from them. Although the news is not as positive as I would have liked, I do hope the information supplied in this letter will answer any questions you may have.

Thank you again, Phyllis, for giving me the opportunity to be of assistance to you. If there is any other way I can be helpful, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

STATE OFFICE:
405 CAPITOL STREET, SUITE 508
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
(304) 347-5372
FAX: (304) 347-5371

NORTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE:
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JOE MANCHIN III
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3954

ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

September 6, 2011

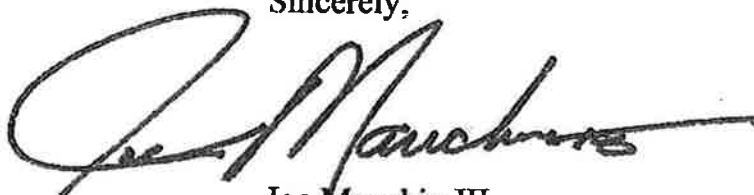
Ms. Phyllis J. Grove
Chairman
Save the Auburn Post Office Committee
PO Box 65
Auburn, West Virginia 26325-0065

Dear Ms. Grove,

Enclosed you will find correspondence from the U.S. Postal Service, regarding the Auburn Post Office.

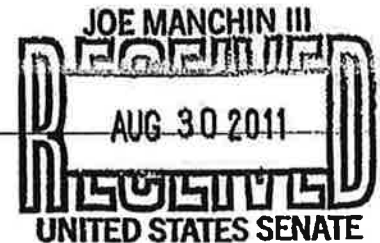
I was pleased to contact responsible officials about this matter, and I am happy to share the enclosed report with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JM/km
Enclosure



August 29, 2011

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator
217 West King Street, Room 238
Martinsburg, WV 25401-3377

Dear Senator Manchin:

This responds to your July 28 letter on behalf of Ms. Phyllis J. Grove, Chairman of Save the Auburn Post Office Committee, regarding the Post Office in that community.

Thank you for sharing the Ms. Grove's comments. I recognize your interest in ensuring that all of your constituents continue to have convenient access to essential postal services. As you are aware, the U.S. Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products, and services to fund its operations. Over the past five years our customers' needs have changed dramatically—mail volume has declined by 43.1 billion pieces, customer visits have decreased by 200 million, and retail transactions have diminished by \$2 billion. In addition, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales are now conducted in expanded access locations outside of traditional Post Offices. In spite of this, the Postal Service has an extensive retail network of nearly 32,000 Post Offices, stations, and branches that has been virtually untouched.

Accordingly, the Postal Service is currently evaluating its retail network to ensure it is correctly aligned to reflect changes in mail volume and customer demand. When studying the existing retail infrastructure, the Postal Service examines the effects of a proposed discontinuance on the community and postal employees, the ability to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the affected community, and potential economic savings. Customers are provided opportunities, through questionnaires and public meetings, to share their concerns and views both on the proposed action and mail service alternatives. Before the Postal Service makes a decision to close or consolidate an independent Post Office, we comply with all the stipulations mandated by federal law. All final decisions are subject to review by the independent Postal Regulatory Commission, and the discontinuance procedures contained in Title 39, United States Code, are exercised before an independent Post Office can be permanently closed. If an office is closed, the office name is retained for use in local mailing addresses to preserve community identity.

Page 2

Appalachian District postal officials confirm that the Auburn Post Office has undergone a discontinuance study. A written proposal to close the Auburn Post Office was posted for public comment on June 1 for 60 days, and a final determination will be forthcoming. Please be assured that any decision concerning the future status of the Auburn Post Office will carefully balance our universal service responsibility and our statutory duty to operate in an efficient manner.

Thank you for writing. If I can be of assistance in other postal matters, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James K. Cari". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James K. Cari
Government Relations Representative

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Exhibit B-1

Gilmer Free Press

Help Save Auburn Post Office



Please help us save the Auburn Post Office.

On March 21, 2011 at 7:00 PM a work meeting will be held at the Auburn Community Center.

A petition will be available for anyone wishing to sign.

On Friday, April 08, 2011 at 6:00 PM the United States Post Office officials will be at the Community Center to discuss the Auburn Post Office's fate with anyone wishing to attend.

Again, please help save the Auburn Post Office.

 - Friday, March 18, 2011

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Resident wants post office saved

March 13, 2011 • BY JODY MURPHY
jmurphy@newsandstaronline.com

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AUBURN - Concerned a rural Ritchie County post office may be slated for closure, a postmaster is trying to mobilize efforts to keep it open.

Phyllis Grove, an Auburn resident and retired postmaster, is concerned officials plan to close the Auburn Post Office.

Grove said no official announcement has been made, but there are indications of its intended closure. Postal officials have scheduled a meeting at 6 p.m. April 8 at the Auburn Community Center.

Grove is planning a meeting at 7 p.m. March 21 at the community center.

"We are going to try to organize, getting as many petitions as we can and canvas the whole area and get some signatures as to why it should stay here."

Grove said Auburn's post office predates West Virginia statehood.

Grove said officials have done a route check, seeking to add Auburn residents to a route.

"That is a sign they are going to close it," she said.

Attempts to reach Clarksburg Postmaster Eric Grossa were unsuccessful. An employee at the Auburn post office said there are rumors, but nothing is official.

"The only thing any of us know is the (list of closings) comes out March 25," the employee said.

Grove is worried the Auburn closure will force residents to drive a greater distance to pick up parcels and certified letters, as well as stamps.

She also thinks the added routes will create a hardship for carriers.

She said post offices in Berea and Cox's Mill were closed years back. Rather than shifted to Auburn, the postal traffic from Berea went to Pullman, while Cox's Mill's traffic went to the Troy office in Gilmer County.

"Auburn is a central area," she said.

Grove suspects part of the reason behind the closure is Auburn is so isolated.

"This town, at one time, was very prosperous. It had a bank, car dealership and numerous churches," she said.

Grove said the 2000 census lists Auburn's population at 91. She thinks it might be closer to 200.

"We have postmasters who are in here, but don't want to stay because we are so far out," she said. "Nobody wants to stay here unless they move here. Which is why it should stay here for us."

Grove said Auburn is a small, poor community consisting of retirees and small farmers, many of whom walk to the post office to pick up their mail and purchase money orders to pay bills.



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Postal Notes

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SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011

RURAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

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Resident wants post office saved

by JODY MURPHY
jmurphy@newsandsentinel.com

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■ SEE RURAL, PAGE 10A

Opinion and Comment

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

A Waiting Game

It was known as the center of a prosperous livestock raising community, noted for Hereford cattle and purebred sheep.

Several doctors, furniture makers and others were born in this small town after pioneer settlers staked the ground there in 1829.

According to information found in *A Photographic History of Ritchie County, West Virginia*, early growth was slow, but the town "developed into a thriving community by 1900 to 1905. The bank was formed in 1901, the same year the town was incorporated. The oil and gas boom brought enough people to warrant lodges, hotels, a theatre and many shops."



Additional businesses lining the busy street were a blacksmith shop and car garage.

This small municipality was prosperous in the early years; however, things changed not quite 80 years later. Store owners saw a decline in business and began to shut their doors; and a recognized borough with the last one-room school in West Virginia, that facility was closed in 1987. Now, the current bulk of the population is retired persons and farmers.

I remember visiting this area throughout my early years, traipsing down the main street with my cousins to go to the general store and getting a sweet taste of country life. My mother was reared here and remembers the beautiful homes that lined the street and the families who dwelled in them, even though commerce had already started to dwindle and the established inhabitants began to

mountain ridges of Ritchie County, might once again witness another chapter in its life terminated — but not if the residents have anything to say about it.

That community is Auburn, where the post office was created Mar. 14, 1851 — 160 years ago! Rumors are flying that this resource may be one of the next to go. The establishment once faced directly on main street, but was moved after many years and is now housed near the market.

As mail volumes decline, the U.S. Postal Service has measured the multi-billion dollar deficit and decided it needs to cut operations, which means shutting down more rural offices across the country. Downsizing seems to be one of the ways to handle the weakening economy.

Already in Ritchie County, the post offices of Beatrice, Berea, Burnt House, Hazelgreen, Mountain and Petroleum have seen locks put on the entryways.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported beginning this month (March), the USPS will begin the process of closing as many as 2,000 post offices, on top of the 491 it said it would close starting at the end of 2010. In addition, the agency will review another 16,000 — half of the nation's existing post offices — that are operating at a deficit, and lobbying Congress to allow it to change the law so the most unprofitable can be closed.

This information is devastating to many out-of-the-way communities, where the post office is the heart of the town. This also puts a giant burden on the citizens, mainly the older residents, who find it complicated to travel those extra miles.

But on the other side of the debate, postal service employees say that country inhabitants already travel to nearby cities for groceries and other services, why not for the post office too?

One Auburn resident, also a retired postmaster, is taking on the cause to keep the facility open. She is concerned, although no official announcement has been made. The "higher-ups" have supposedly conducted a route check — a red flag in her observation.

A community meeting was scheduled for Monday of this week to organize an effort to keep the post office open, canvas the area and get petitions signed. Hopefully, that meeting was well attended, since the local population appears to want to retain this outlet.

A list of closures is expected to be released Friday, Mar. 25th, when the fate will be determined. Postal officials plan to visit the community on Apr. 8th.

The waiting game has begun.

—Denise Duelley

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Auburn Post Office on Discontinuance List

The United States Postal Service released a discontinuance study on Friday, Mar. 25th, that showed 27 West Virginia post offices are slated for possible closure.

Among those listed was the facility located in Auburn (Ritchie County).

This study is done prior to proposing to close a post office. Once proposed, USPS must notify the involved public and hold a comment period of 60 days.

Should it be decided to close the post office, the public then has 30 days to appeal the decision to the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission.

A public meeting is scheduled for Friday, Apr. 8th, 6:00 p.m., at the Auburn Community Center for residents to discuss

the effects of a possible closure with Post Office Operations Manager Eric Grossa.

Republican David McKinley issued a statement that news of the potential closures was disappointing. He noted the importance of post offices in rural communities, and office representatives will attend many of the planned meetings.

Current acting postmaster of Auburn is Barbara Combs.

The list of West Virginia post offices facing closure, in addition to Auburn, are Rockport, Osage, Burton, Carolina, Lahmansville, Eccles, Amigo, Springdale, Raleigh, Lanark, Glen White, Rhodell, Prince, Napier, Sabine, Deepwater, Gallagher, Cora, Asbury, Eckman, Wayside, Elkhorn, Jenkinjones, Hensley, Cass and Norton.



Auburn News

Normaleen Collins • 304-349-2557

Hi, everyone.

Mae Osborne's

75th birthday was Saturday, Mar. 26th. Family members had a surprise party, giving her a cake decorated with peach roses. Peach and purple are her favorite colors. There were hot dogs and side dishes. She received lots of nice gifts. Present were Mae and Harmon Osborne, Tressie "Chig", Lee and Giselle Blankenship, Randall Osborne, Richard and Louraine Keener, Herchel and Patty White, Nancy Powers, Linda Osborne, Bobbie Combs, Barb and Ray Hornsby, Carolyn Pride-more, Sherry and Derrick Combs, and myself. Lots of pictures were taken and everyone had a good time. I am sure others stopped by later. She also received several telephone calls.

Don't forget the special meeting on Friday, Apr. 8th, 6:00 p.m., at the Auburn Community Building. There will be someone from Clarksburg, as well as Ritchie County Delegate Lynwood "Woody" Ireland and hopefully reporters from the newspapers. There will be signed petitions all in preparation to keep our Auburn Post Office. So, please come and support the cause. If you haven't signed one of the petitions, please

do so and try to attend the meeting.

Randall Farley has been going to Wyoming County each week to help his mom, Helen Farley. She is doing better. Keep them both in your prayers.

Please pray for my son, Mike, who has a very bad sore throat; his wife, Carrie, had an allergic reaction; Mae Osborne, admitted to the hospital Saturday night and goes for surgery at Cleveland Clinic on Apr. 4th; Dennett Osborne, for his back; and Chester Osborne, who will go down south to preach the funeral of a family member.

Happy birthday to April babies — Dave Watson, Wayne Watson, Patty White, Sonny Toler, Jr. Dale Osborne, Kaitlyn Winans, Kaley Gibson, Caleb Gibson, Aaron Blizard, Tommy Lilly and Delphene Haddox.

Happy anniversary to Randall and Debbie Farley, Apr. 12th; and Wilma and Dan Hoosier, Apr. 14th.

The meeting held Monday, Mar. 21st, had about 38-plus people in attendance besides Phyllis Groves and included Mayor Chester Osborne, the town recorder, as well as four of the five council members, people from Pullman, Spruce Creek, Big Run and Auburn. We hope to have a building full on Apr. 8th.

The Cox's Mills Church of God hot dog sale and gospel sing is Saturday, Apr. 9th, 10:00 a.m.

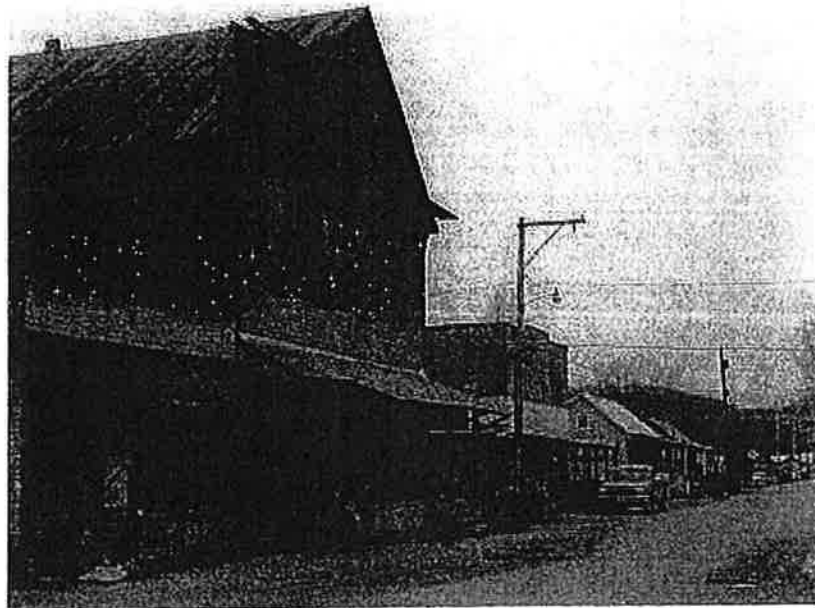
Exhibit B-4

Exhibit B-5

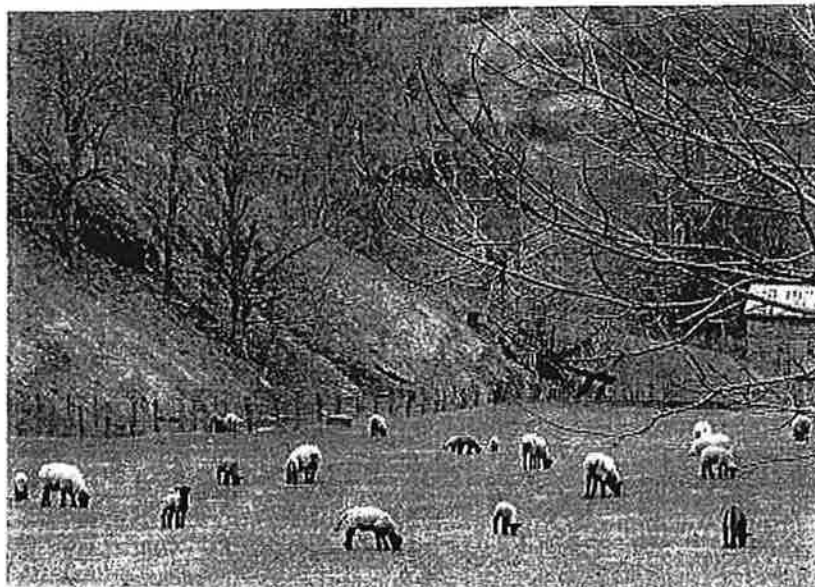


THOUSANDS OF RURAL POST OFFICES TARGETED FOR CLOSURE - Former Auburn Postmistress Says It Saves Little Money

(03/30/2011)



Town of Auburn is a shade of its' former self ...



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... surrounded by Ritchie County farms

By Bob Weaver

Ritchie County's Auburn post office is one of many US Postal offices slated for closure, one of several currently on the block in West Virginia.

Retired postmistress Phyllis Grove (right) says, "Many efforts have been made to close our office in the past, and they've even scheduled meetings without the public being aware."

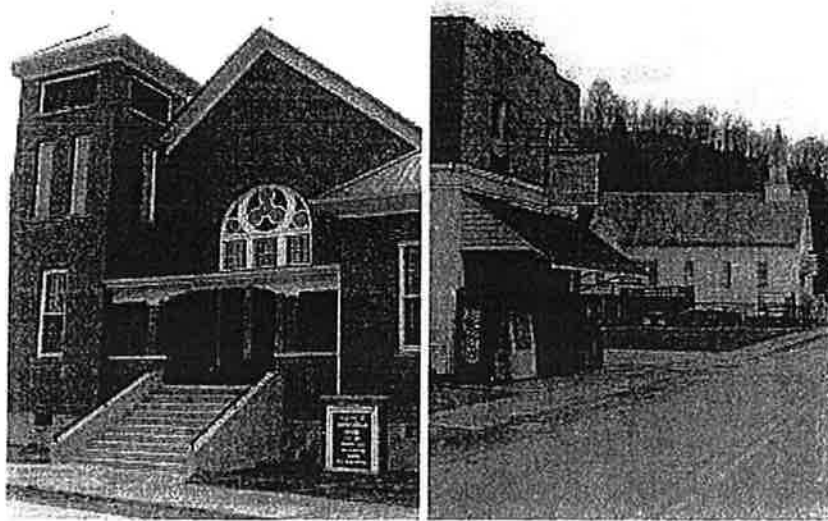


Grove, a native of Braxton County, settled in the rural farm community after her retirement from the postal system in 1999.

She says thousands of rural post offices are being targeted, even though closing the small offices would only save seven-tenths of one percent of the post office budget.

So far, only the people who have in-house boxes have been notified about the latest closure meeting, set for the Auburn Community Building at 6 p.m. on April 8.

"We're hoping to pack the center with folks who do not want their office closed," she said. Petitions protesting the closure are circulating in the community.



**The Baptist Church resides on Main Street
and nearby the town's last store is closed**

The Village of Auburn, still an incorporated town, had a post office before West Virginia became a state. It was known as Bone Creek, Virginia. Auburn

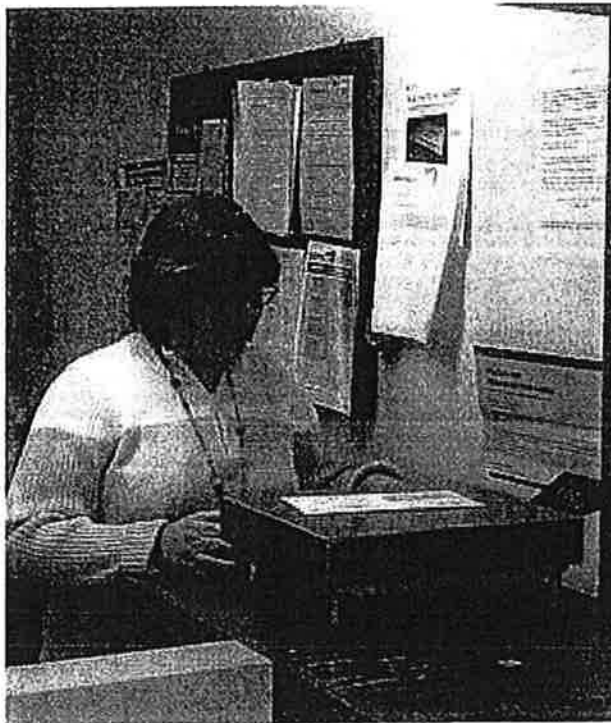
was the site of the last one-room school to be closed in West Virginia.

The village was home to Stephen McCormick (1784–1875) noted inventor and manufacturer, who introduced the cast-iron plow to America.

Chester Osborne is the mayor of Auburn, with a population of about 100. The town has active churches, civic organizations and a community building.

"We live in a time when communities no longer matter, bigger is better. Those things important to small communities have been removed, like schools and post offices. After a while we're just a number, a consumer, and people are no longer connected in a meaningful way," said Grove.

"We hope the community will turn out for the hearing," she concluded.



Postal clerk sorting mail for rural community, now facing closure

See related stories [POSTAL SERVICE IN TROUBLE, RATES GOING UP - PO's Fail Business 101, Offices Not In Phone Book](#)

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[US POSTAL CLOSING MOSTLY RURAL POST OFFICES - A Closure Coming To You Soon](#)

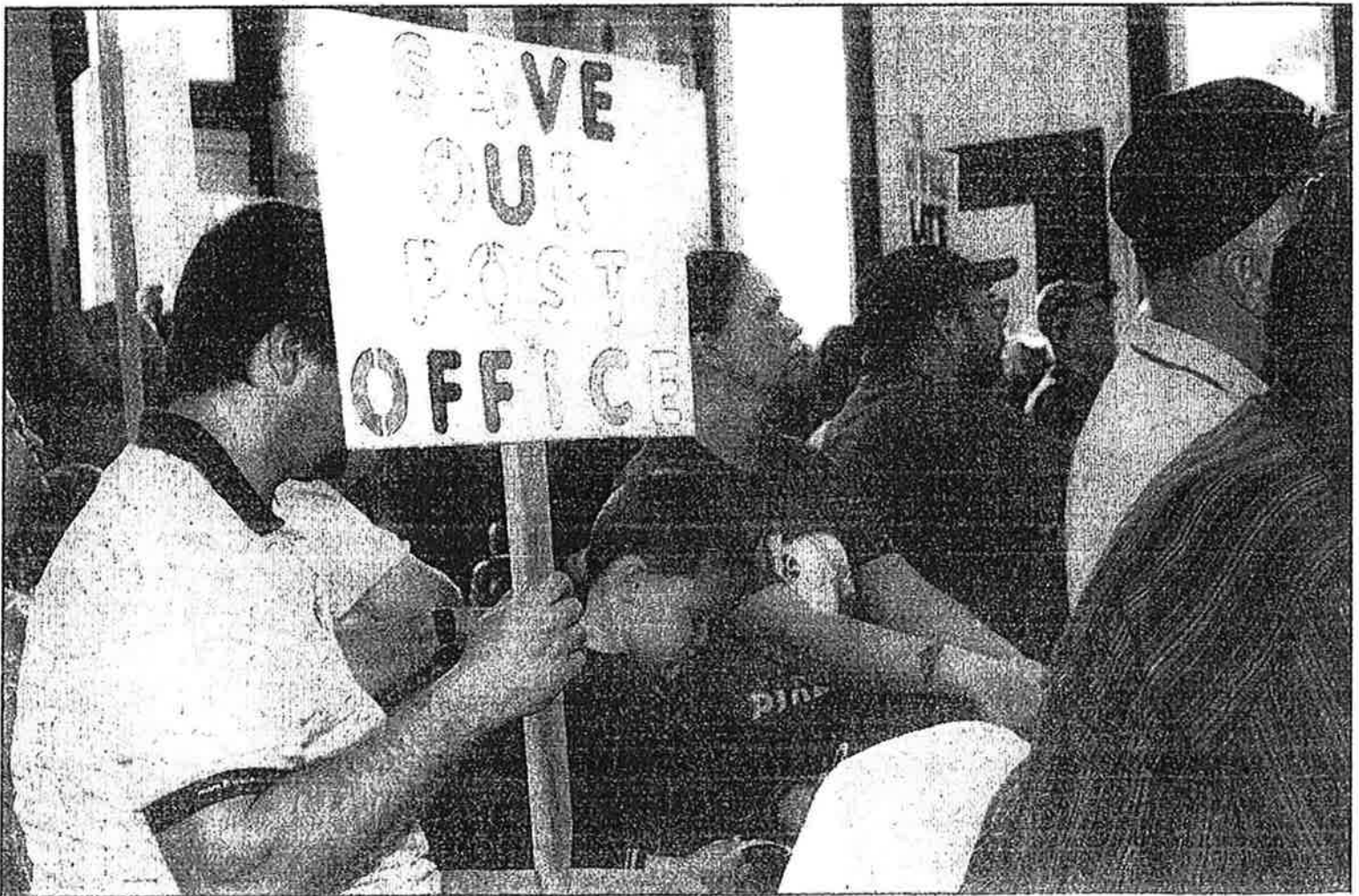
Exhibit C-1

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Auburn residents were approximately 70 strong at Friday's meeting with United States Post Office representatives to discuss the community's concerns of the local facility being on the list of possible closures in the near future.

Wednesday, April 13, 2011
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Volume 137 • Number 35

Save Our Post Office!

by Denise Duelley

Auburn residents came to a question-and-answer session at the town's community building on Friday night, Apr. 9th, where many questions were asked, but few answers were received on whether the local post office will close.

Mayor Chester Osborne welcomed everyone who filled the room, stating he was thankful for the turnout. Kenneth Shaffer and Samuel Grossa, representing the United States Postal Service, were in attendance to talk to the congregation.

Grossa, Post Office Operations Manager, wanted the community to understand that no decision had been made at this point to close the post office.

"It's nothing more than a study to see the feasibility or financial impact. I know everyone here

determine what offices should be looked at," said Grossa. "Everyone got a letter in the mailbox, or post office box, that says this post office has not had an acting postmaster since 2008. That's another reason it's actually on the list. At least one of them."

In the letter, the USPS reported, "A review of business activities of the Post Office revealed that the office workload had declined. Our office review revealed an average 45.40 daily retail window transactions. This reduced workload suggests that the maintenance of an independent office at Auburn may not be warranted. Briefly, we would like to provide pickup and delivery of your mail, as well as all other customary postal services, by Highway Contract Route Service emanating from the Troy PO."

In fact, we are losing \$23 million every single day. That's a lot of money. We've put notices out asking for forgiveness on loans, and particular things to keep us viable. In this day and age with e-mails, faxes and cell phones, it has taken our business away," said Grossa.

"What we're trying to do is remain viable for the entire country. Change is hard. We go through it every day in our lives through home, work, churches and personal lives. And change is difficult. This is the last thing the postal service wants to do — close a post office in any community. But the reality is that we're losing money and we have to do studies. We have to make decisions of what is best for the country and to keep the postal network the way it is. Fully understand that no decision has been made to close the post office, we are here to take questions and answer those questions. I won't have all the answers. We will write down the questions and send them up the ladder to get answers. We want to give the community their voice to be heard."

The first question raised came from a woman, who asked, "Why can't the post offices closer together be closed, rather than the rural areas like this where you have to travel so many miles and gasoline is so high? There are areas that have much more clutter of post offices than this section has. Why are they not closed?"

Grossa answered, "I can't answer that question. My opinion doesn't matter. I understand your point and it makes sense."

"Who came up with the list of active post offices that they are looking to close down?" came a gentleman's voice from the back.

"Headquarters in Washington, D.C., did window transaction studies, studies on how much it cost to operate with personnel, utilities, heating. There are lots of things that go into the study to

routes were not considered to be primary recipients," said resident Jim Lowther. "It was available for those who asked, but the attitude seems to be that those on the route are not affected by the post office closing."

"Auburn is an incorporated community. We have places like Troy and Linn that are unincorporated. Shouldn't incorporated towns have priority of having a post office rather than that of an unincorporated town?" questioned Chester Osborne Jr.

"That's a good question and I don't have the answer," commented Grossa. "That is definitely not provided to me."

"Why is it that Auburn hasn't had an acting postmaster since 2008? What's the purpose behind that?" was the next inquiry.

"We're (USPS) losing money and what we're doing as jobs become vacant is holding them for people who are in the company and may be affected and lose their jobs, so we don't lay anyone off. We're trying to do the right thing for the government employees and not displace anybody, putting someone on the unemployment line," said Grossa. "In jobs like this here, vacancies do occur. The company's holding those for the ones impacted who may lose jobs for whatever reason in the state or in the country, and still provide someone still on payroll an opportunity to move his family to another location and be employed, rather than being in the unemployment line. That's not the sole reason, but that's definitely a piece of the ratio in keeping jobs."

"Isn't it, too, how these offices were selected?" asked Rick Blizzard. "One of the selected ways is if you didn't have a full-time post person?"

"Yes, that was in the letter sent out that it was one of the things listed," replied Grossa.

"But if you're leaving office (see Post Office, page 5-A)

Post Office

(continued from page 1-A)

positions open, why is that a criteria?" Blizard remarked.

"It's just one of the many criteria points," said Grossa. "It's derived from headquarters and I'm not privileged to that information. There are 27 other post offices just like Auburn that's under consideration. It's unfortunate for every little community, but again no decision has been made to close this office. When you're sitting here and asking questions and go home tonight, don't think the post office has its mind made up that Auburn is going to be gone. We don't know that."

Past Postmaster Phyllis Groves, who retired in 1999, asked, "Why was Auburn and Cox's Mills' routes chosen before Troy?"

"I wasn't in that position those years ago," said Grossa.

"I'll tell you, it was the cost of the route. It made Troy a higher level because they got more routes. It cost the post office money. Why not bring it back to Auburn?" continued Groves. "We're down in a valley. It's across the mountain to Troy. Nobody goes that direction for shopping or anything. There's no reason to go there. And also, we don't always get revenue, it goes to Troy. Because the only way you can make sure revenue goes to Auburn is to write a check out to the Auburn Post Office. Another thing that costs Auburn is it's closed on Saturdays. Why not close in the afternoon and leave Saturdays open? Working people cannot get there. We lose revenue because they can't get there. Close in the afternoon like banks do, but keep the window open on Saturdays."

"Revenue is siphoned off to keep other offices open. I don't think that's fair. The revenue should stay in Auburn," Groves concluded.

"We had a postmaster for a few years, but he chose to move closer home," said Brenda Lilly. "That may be part of the reason, because we're so far out. People have to drive to get here. Who's to say they won't come and stay for a bit and move as well?"

Wanda Bray mentioned that in the winter months, the road to

"I do not know. This is the first of possibly three meetings," stated Grossa. "If once a decision is made to close the office — if and when — there's a 180-day period from that point on that the office would officially close. It's frustrating for us to come to a town hall meeting of 65 or 70 concerned citizens and say no more than 'I do not know'. It's very frustrating for me. I'm not having fun with this. The last thing we want to do is create hardships on customers."

"I want a recount on the situation in Auburn," said Linda Blizard. "Our rural carrier picks up mail and packages. His scanner gives the credit to Troy. Not only do any stamps or money exchanges go to credit Troy, but the counted packages get credited to Troy. That's not right! I am serviced by Auburn Post Office, so we should be getting credit for that. Because I get certified mail, packages to sign for, I asked our postal carrier and he said no. He keys in Troy zip code for my signatures to say I received it. Therefore, Troy gets credit. Auburn's one criteria was money and count. If our money and count is going to Troy and that bumps them up to a higher level, and we're getting bumped down because we're losing revenue, don't you think the post office should re-evaluate that situation?"

"Good point," said Grossa.

"I would like to request they do another audit on numbers and get information in the right place," said Mrs. Blizard. "Anyone in favor of that?"

Applause erupted from the crowd on her comment.

"My question is, if we don't have an Auburn Post Office, there are over 660 square miles without one," said Geraldine Lusk. "Cox's Mills is closed, Burnt House is closed. Troy is three miles from Linn. Those two little post offices are together. Why can't they close Linn?"

"If Troy stays open, no doubt there will have to be a new post office," said Barb Watson. "That's not going to save money. It's very tiny and we have the best post office of the two. That's the money situation. Lost revenue here and it goes to Troy. We need

ties, whether a post office box; a mailbox three miles out town. Carry that to supervising that folks believe the individual post office needs credit for what they are doing, not other central post offices like Harrisville, Troy, Clarksburg, so forth. Otherwise what you're doing is shutting the process up. And that's not appropriate."

"There's a process that we're not involved in. We don't see the bottom line," said Grossa. "I don't know how much utility bills are. So the process to determine what office is viable, what is it making enough money, whatever we don't see or have privilege at our level. Our district office might."

"If you're going to close down a facility, tell the community that savings are going to resolve. You talk of losing \$23 million spending all this money overseas or on foreign aid, but you're not willing to take care of people at home," said Ireland.

Mary Haddox commented, "I'm concerned if our post office is closed, we're not going to support the postal department with packages and things. We will call UPS. All we have to do is to call and they will pick up and mail them. The postal department will lose more money that way."

"Rural free delivery will pick up packages at your doorstep. If you're receiving rural mail, you don't have to leave the house to do business at the post office," said Grossa.

One woman said, "The roads are not taken care of. I don't have four-wheel drive and can't get around on my own. I have to have someone take care of me. If you hire someone to take care of interim mail, that costs more."

Mrs. Blizard remarked, "I do a lot of packaging — probably one of the top five in Auburn for money going in and out. I do click and ship and I get a discount, plus confirmation. I understand. We bring it to the post office and they take care of it. I understand being on the internet to hold for a pick up and then the rural carrier is supposed to get it. He comes at 1:30 and if I post at 1:00 during the business day there's no way he will get it that day."

"The same day? After he has already left the office for the morning?" asked Grossa. "I

...this puts us in the position of having to get bills paid to take that road in the middle of winter."

"I don't have a car and I don't drive," said Normaleen Collins.

"There's lots in the community who are the same way."

"I do a lot of business out of this town," said Rick Blizzard.

"I send from one to 50 parcels a week. If you close the Auburn post office, what am I going to have to do now? Go to Troy to get delivery? Do I have to change zip codes and everything else?"

"Every community we go to, they are concerned of losing their identity," said Grossa.

"And that's one thing I haven't seen in past closings. Most were due to OSHA concerns, sanitary concerns. The community has never lost zip code, or identity."

"What happens when I have to go all the way to Troy?" asked Blizzard. "I do international shipping. I drive to the post office to get special forms done. Is the postal carrier able to do the same kind of work? When they did this survey on offices around, did they do geographical locations or jobs?"

"I don't know," said Grossa. "There's a formula."

"Is this carrier also able to set there with money orders for people? How does that work?" Blizzard questioned. "We're a very rural area. Some set there and don't have the pleasure of being in Clarksburg to more of this or that. It's a heartache here for people to pay bills."

"The post office will have the most efficient method to take care of the community and its customers," said Grossa. "We will come up with something. It's going to be something to serve the community and public - a win-win situation. It's not lopsided."

"Do we have anyone who might have the answers that you have not had tonight?" came a woman's voice from the back. "Is there anyone within?"

"Someone will have the answers," remarked Grossa.

"When will we have those answers," she asked.

this area for the last 150 years and I'm familiar with the area. If you close the Auburn Post Office, what will you save? If you don't have a full-time postmaster, what's to save? What are the criteria for being a successful post office in the eyes of the postal service? Postal money, location, population, what does it take to be successful? Don't tell me you don't know."

Another round of applause swept the room.

Grossa stated, "You made me smile on that one ... but I don't know. We could be here to midnight with questions and getting points of view, but truly I came to hold a town meeting and hear your voices, take questions and provide what we can. I'm not going to have answers."

"When do you feel Phase 2 will come in, or the second meeting with the town?" asked Ireland.

"Once the questions are turned into the manager of the district, that time will be determined," answered Grossa. "They will have to do their end of the work at headquarters and go back to the district. Letters will be submitted to communities. I understand some didn't get those letters. Barbara Combs will have those in her possession and will put them in everyone's box, she lives in the community and she knows everyone. I know everyone will be made aware. If there is one, that is. It may go no further than this."

"Summarize the process that is motivated to decide if the post office should be closed," said Ireland. "Lots of people are concerned and would like to know what's at stake. What is successful in holding a post office? Unless they know whether mail dropped in a post office box is being credited to Troy. In my case, mine goes through Pullman and is credited to Harrisville. That's a process that would end with the post office to make a decision to who gets credited with volume through that facility. So that's an internal administration decision. Truly, what you need to be doing is looking at volume going through individual facili-

won't know that package is there."

"I can take it down town and still have it done same day, because our packages don't go out there until after 2:00. I have a rural route and post office box," said Mrs. Blizard.

"My driveway is not bad. But when it gets icy and snowy, sometimes he has problems getting the regular route, let alone going up and down the driveways of some of these houses," she continued. "Plus you're wanting to close Auburn post office to save money. If you increase the time the rural route carrier has to stop and pick up packages, you may have to hire two of them. So are you saving anything?"

"That will have to be determined on whether we have to hire another carrier or the volume is warranted," replied Grossa.

"That is to be taken into consideration," she stated. "You close the post office and these people are local that want a post office. Take it to Troy. They're losing out. Are you saving money? Our opinion is no."

"That's speculation. We have to see if it's even warranted," commented Grossa.

"Common sense tells you that it will extend the time of the rural carrier. Normally, he stops at the bottom of the hill for a minute. If he comes to the house, gets out, scans the packages, it's going to add time to him," responded Mrs. Blizard.

The conversation continued back and forth.

"But providing service to you is most important," said Grossa.

"Are you? Not if I can't have it go out the same day!" said Mrs. Blizard. "We do lots of overnight. It needs to go out today. Where do I take it? What time does Troy's mail go out? Now I've missed my service!"

"In the future, would it be possible to bring people from headquarters who are evaluating the post office on the money, input and output, and area that the post office covers?" asked Dustin Haddox.

"If you can't bring the people, certainly bring the analysis so it can be looked at," said Ireland. "These folks are owed an explanation."

"If we have something that needs signed, we're not home. There's no way I can get to Troy

until Saturday," came another voice. "I can go to the post office here, but how long will it set there?"

"We would not even consider closing an office, if it was a money maker," said Grossa. "From a business standpoint, would you close an office if it was making money?"

"If you have a facility and it is making money, you would not consider closing it," stated Ireland. "We are under the impression that this office is losing money. Window transactions, maybe a book of stamps, I don't know the ratio, between salary, benefits and rent. It needs weighed out. The government needs to run and it needs to spend money efficiently. The government is not in the business of making money."

"The postal service does not get one penny of the tax dollars," said Grossa. "Everything is because of stamps, and whatever revenue comes across the window from its citizens and customers. There are no subsidies from government. Whatever we do, we do on our own. Our customers nationwide are not at the window anymore, because of online shopping. We're trying to adapt to be here in 15 to 20 years. You're not going to make everyone happy."

Dave Concoran of the *Glenville Democrat/Pathfinder*, stood to speak for Auburn. "I don't want to speak against the post office. You do a valuable service and the people here realize that. The post office is a social center and an economic center for Auburn. For those reasons, the study should be negated."

"Go back to the postmaster you were talking about," said Carolyn Pridemore. "You would have to find another postmaster to come into Auburn, because we are so far out. What's wrong with Barbara? Why can't she take the job? She's run it all these years and apparently does it right, or they would have removed her by now. Why can't she? She lives in the area and it would save lots right there."

"You did this check of revenue for Auburn post office and it was low," said Nancy Powders. "Tell us how can we get our postal carrier to run our stuff through the post office here instead of Troy, so our count will go back up. That's why our count is low."

"If you close Auburn, you will

put it on the HC route, or will it be rural route?" asked Groves.

"We will look at the most efficient method to provide service to the community. That remains to be seen. It's well, well down the road and can only come after the decision to possibly close the office," said Grossa.

"Vandalism on mail boxes is heavy in this area," stated Collins. "Some people have to have post office boxes. They get checks and they're destroyed. You can't trust to leave checks in the mail boxes for the same reason. We need the post office boxes."

Rab Osborne, ex-mayor of Auburn, was the final interrogator. "I was mayor for 16 year. In 2003, when we had the major flood here, the post office was destroyed. They were going to close it then. They gave us criteria to bring it back to code and they bucked to put it back. We had to get the governor's office and congressmen on our behalf to contact the postal service. Mysteriously, in three days it was back. We remodeled exactly as they asked. The town put up part of the money, because there wasn't money for it. This is the second time that they're talking of taking our post office away."

"From the number I see here, I can tell you must have had a loud voice heard," said Grossa.

"Well, it will be a louder one coming, if not. I will be back on the phone with the governor's office and state legislators in Charleston, to see what can be done this time, too," said Osborne. "This is the last business here in this town. We lost all our business in 2003. Most left on account of the flood."

"If this doesn't go any farther, where does it go? Will you come back? What is your time line?"

Grossa responded, "Sixty days for a decision to be made, then there is 30 days to appeal with the postal authority. If it moves forward, there will be a second and possible third community meeting. Information will be provided a week ahead of time to tell us that."

"Right now, the post office is in uncharted waters. We have never had to consider closing a post office because of financial reasons. There are more questions than answers at this point. It's not business as usual."

Save Our Post Office !!!

Auburn residents want answers

Jennifer Metheney

Auburn residents want to keep their post office. Over 75 people attended a meeting Friday evening, April 8, to meet with representatives from the United States Postal Service. Those residents had answers to their questions, but those answers were not readily available from postal office representatives.

Kenny Shaffer, postmaster at Beverly Post Office, and Eric Grossa, manager of postal office operations for this area and postmaster at Clarksburg, represented the postal service during the meeting in Auburn Friday evening.

Grossa stated in his opening comments no decision has been made to close the Auburn Post Office. He

said the meeting was part of a feasibility study being conducted by the postal service for some post offices around the nation.

He stated the postal service is losing \$23 million a day and the postal service has looked at five day mail service, which includes not delivering mail on Saturdays, and has asked for forgiveness on loans to help with this loss.

Grossa said technology changes have taken business away from the postal service, but the postal service wants to be in the community. He said the last thing the postal service wants to do is close a post office, but the postal service has to do what is best for the entire country.

In a letter to post office customers dated March 21, Grossa stated "Our office review revealed an average of 45.40 daily retail window transactions. This reduced workload suggests that the maintenance of an independent office at Auburn may not be warranted.

"Briefly, we would like to provide pickup and delivery of you mail, as well as the sale of stamps and all other customary postal services, by Highway Contract Route Service emanating from the Troy PO."

"We estimate that carrier service would cost the Postal Service substantially less than maintaining the Post Office in your community and still provide regular and effective service."

The letter went on to invite customers to a meeting on Friday, April 8, and customers were invited to fill out a questionnaire.

Customers were told to contact Teresa Price at 304.561.1052 with any questions.

Grossa said he wouldn't have all the answers to everyone's questions Friday evening, but questions and concerns would be written down and answers would be gathered.

The first question from those in attendance was why couldn't post offices closer together be closed instead of closing a post office in a rural area like Auburn.

Grossa said he couldn't answer that question. He said he had his opinion about that, but he didn't want to voice his opinion.

The next question was who had come up with the list of post offices slated for closure. Grossa said there are a lot of things that go into closing a post office. He said Auburn hadn't

been unfortunate for these communities.

Phyllis Grove asked why processing for Berea and Cox's 1 wasn't brought back to Aul instead of being sent to Troy.

Grossa said he didn't know.

Grove said the processing in Troy a level 13 and it is costing postal service. She said it is across the mountain to get to 1 and she knows it costs more money taking the routes to Troy.

She went on to say Auburn doesn't get credit for the revenue processed through the post office. She said with the post office Auburn closed on Saturdays, postal service is losing money.

Grove suggested keeping the post office window open on Saturdays and closing it one afternoon. She went on to say the revenue for Auburn Post Office is being siphoned off to keep other post offices open.

Another resident asked if danger for postal customers would be taken into consideration. She said Auburn residents had to go to Troy to get their mail, they would have to take Bloody Run Road, which is a killer in the winter.

Normaleen Collins stated the post office in Auburn was convenient for her because she doesn't own a car and she doesn't drive.

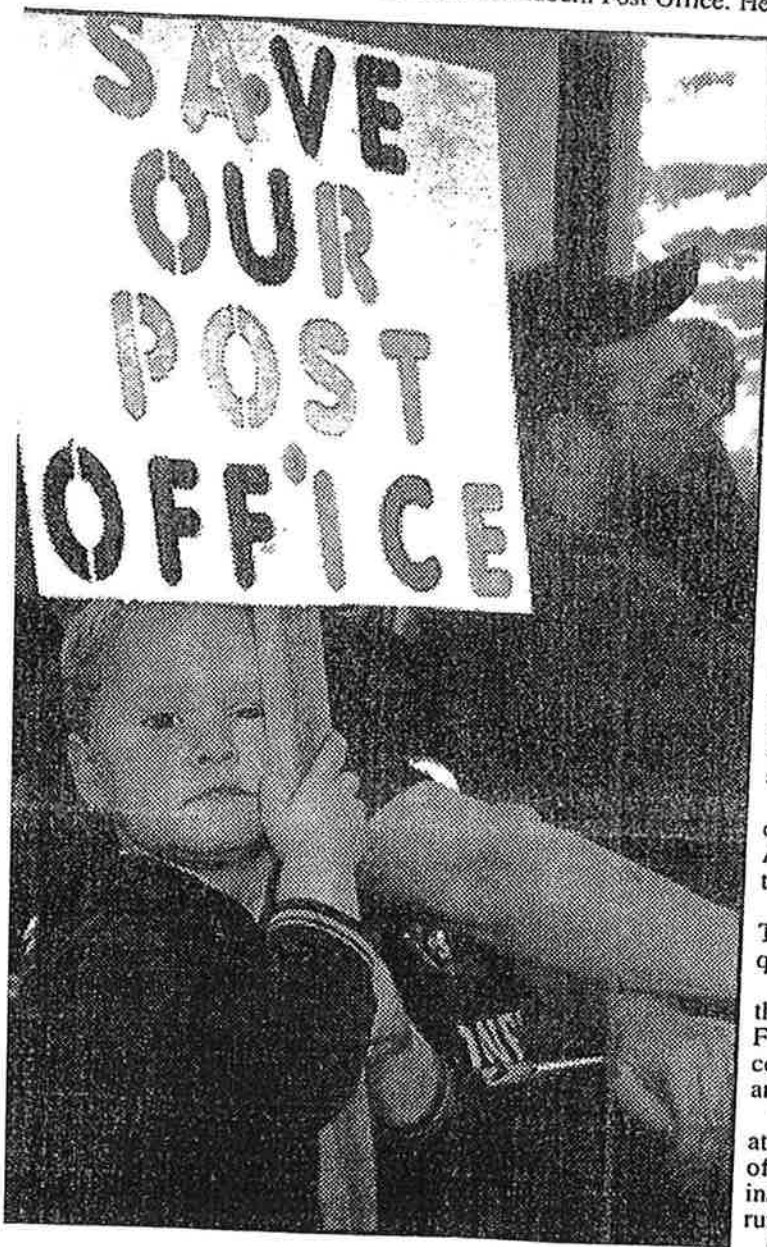
Grossa said if a decision was made to close the Auburn Post Office, there were many options on how to get mail delivery.

Rick Blizzard said he does a lot of business through the Auburn Post Office, sending out between 1-51 parcels every week.

"Do I have to go to Troy and do have to start changing my zip code?" Blizzard asked.

Grossa said small communities where post offices have been closed usually don't lose their zip codes. He went on to say one way residents could get their mail would be from a

**See Auburn residents
Page 4A**



Kensler holds a sign in support of keeping the Auburn Post Office. Signs were seen throughout the Auburn Community Building, as citizens, Friday evening, April 8. Postal representatives met with concerned citizens to discuss concerns and try to answer questions about the possibility of closing Auburn Post Office.

unincorporated area, such as Auburn, shouldn't have priority over unincorporated areas like Troy and Lynn.

Grossa couldn't answer the question.

"Why hasn't Auburn had an acting postmaster?"

Grossa said with the postal service losing money, as jobs become vacant, they are holding those jobs for people who may be displaced in other areas of the postal service. He said the postal service doesn't want to let people go, therefore those jobs are being held for people who might be impacted with closures of other facilities.

Grossa said there are 27 other post offices just like Auburn under consideration. He stated it was

Auburn residents

(Continued from page 1A)

centralized locked box area. These boxes have individual mail boxes and are bolted to the ground.

Grossa said the postal service would furnish these type of boxes to postal customers. He stated the rural carriers have stamps, money order applications and scales in their vehicles and can pick up packages.

Grossa said the carriers stop at these cluster boxes for 30 minutes giving postal customers time to meet them and have their needs met.

Blizard said he does a lot of international shipping and wanted to know if the rural carrier would have the forms he needed. Grossa said no.

A resident asked who would have the answers and when those answers would be provided to Auburn residents.

Grossa said the meeting Friday was just one of possibly three community meetings. He said if and when a decision to close a post office is made, there is a six month period before the closure.

"I've been sick about this. This is the last thing we want to do," Grossa stated.

Linda Blizard called for a recount of the situation in Auburn. She said she lives on a rural route and when the rural carrier uses his scanner to scan packages, that is credited to Troy, not the Auburn Post Office.

"We are serviced by Auburn and they should be credited," Mrs. Blizard stated.

She went on to say crediting packages and certified mail to Troy Post Office bumps them up to a higher level, while Auburn is bumped down to a lower level. She stated she wanted a reevaluation of this.

Another resident stated if the Auburn Post Office is closed there will be 667 square miles without a post office. The resident said Troy is three miles from Lynn and asked why the Lynn Post Office couldn't be closed instead.

Another resident stated there would have to be a new post office put in at Troy if all of the mail delivery goes there. They said there is not enough room to turn around in the post office there, which wouldn't save the postal service any money.

Del. Woody Ireland of Pullman was in attendance at the meeting Friday evening. He said his ancestors have been in the area for 150 years. He asked what the postal service could save by closing Auburn Post Office.

Grossa said he couldn't give any figures and didn't have an answer for the question.

"What does it take to be a successful post office? Money? Population?" Ireland asked.

"I don't know. We want to hear everyone's voice and I want to provide answers when I can," Grossa stated.

Blizard asked what the second phase of this process would entail.

Grossa said once the questions were turned in, the postal service would have to get the answers, which would take some time. He said if there was going to be a second meeting letters would be given to post office box customers and would be available at the post office.

"We don't want to shoot the messenger...yet. People are concerned and want to know how to be successful in keeping the post office here," Ireland stated.

He suggested the postal carrier look...

shipping packages. We'll go to UPS."

Grossa said there is rural free delivery and carriers will bring and pick up packages from homes. He went on to say there is an online service to schedule rural pickup and deliveries.

Mrs. Blizard said she and her husband use click and ship for packages, but she was concerned with getting packages scheduled for pick up. She asked if she gets online and schedules a package to be picked up, would it be picked up the same day. She stated there would be no way a rural carrier would pick it up the same day.

She stated she can take packages to the Auburn Post Office and know they are being shipped out the same day if she gets them there by 2 p.m.

Mrs. Blizard asked if the postal service had taken into consideration how many rural carriers they would have to hire.

Grossa said this was speculation at this point and the postal service would have to wait and see what the situation warrants.

Mrs. Blizard said it would extend the rural carriers delivery time.

Grossa said it was all about providing services to the customers.

Dustin Haddox asked if someone from headquarters who is doing the calculations could come to the meeting to provide answers.

Grossa said they could invite the district people to attend the meeting. Ireland said people are owed an explanation and that a cost analysis needs to be available.

Grossa agreed.

"We wouldn't even think about closing a facility if it was making money. We're all under the impression Auburn is losing money. I don't know how much, but with only 45 daily transactions," Grossa said.

Grossa went on to say the postal service doesn't get tax dollars. He said money generated by the postal service is through stamp sales and money generated at the post office windows.

He said the postal service wants to keep six day delivery schedules and even though everyone wants the postal service to remain the same, it has to shrink with the business.

"Things are changing drastically. We need to adapt so we can be here 25 years down the road. If we need to, we have to make changes to benefit the whole country," Grossa said.

A lady from Berea said the Berea Post Office was closed and now she uses Auburn. She stated if the Auburn Post Office was closed, it would make her travel further.

Grove asked if the post office was closed, would Auburn be put on an HC Route or a rural route delivery.

Grossa said the postal service would look at the most efficient route, but that was well down the road and after a decision was made.

Collins said there was concern with vandalism and people taking mail out of mail boxes, therefore many people used the post office.

Grossa said it was a shame someone would do damage to someone else's property.

Ronald Osborne said in 2003 there was a major flood in Auburn, which wiped out the post office. He said he, as the then mayor of Auburn, had contact government officials and the town had to put up money to remove the post office and bring it up to code, otherwise it would have been closed then.

He said his voice will be loud this time around and he will be on the telephone contacting people...

each individual post office. He said the people believe the individual post offices should be getting credit for those pieces going through the individual post offices.

Grossa said this was a process he wasn't involved with and he didn't see the bills. He said there are a lot of things he, as post master, sees and a lot he doesn't, which was processed through the corporate offices.

Mary Haddox said, "We're not going to support the postal service with

uns was the last business left after those floods.

Blizard asked if this doesn't go any further would the residents of Auburn be notified. He then asked if there was a time line.

Shaffer said the postal service had 60 days to make their decisions, which would be posted. He said there is a 30 day period for appeal after any decision to close a post office is made.

Grossa said they were not given an exact timeline, but if the decision made to go forward with closure, there will be another public meeting, possibly two public meetings.

Ireland stated it would be nice if the postal service could get the question and information requested during the meeting, allowing the residents time to react to the information.

"We've never been put into this situation. We've never been put into a situation where we've had to consider closing a post office for financial reasons. We're learning while we're going on," Grossa stated.

No other meetings have been set at this time.

Post Office Discontinuance Hearing At Auburn



PART OF FRIDAY NIGHT'S PUBLIC MEETING — At the meeting's beginning, Auburn Mayor Chester Osborne, Sr. (l-r) introduced Clarksburg Postmaster Samuel Massa, who conducted the public forum in the Community Center on the possibility of closing the town's Post Office. (Staff photos on this page by Dave Corcoran, Sr.)

Auburn may lose its Post Office, town told

David H. Corcoran, Sr.,
Publisher-Sr. Editor

About 70-to-80 Auburn area citizens came to a Public Forum at the town's Community Center on last Fri. evening, Apr. 8 to tell United States postal officials that they didn't

want to have their 160-year-old postal service discontinued and local mailings transferred.

Auburn is located in neighboring Ritchie County, but only four miles in distance from Simmons Store at Cox's Mills and nine miles

Continued in column to right



APPROXIMATELY 70-TO-80 CITIZENS ATTENDED THE POSTAL MEETING

from the Troy Post Office, both communities being in Gilmer County.

Auburn community feelings were strong against what they think is a US Post Office plan to close their PO and incorporate it into the one at Troy. "Troy and Linn are not incorporated, but Auburn is, as we have a Mayor and Council," argues Chester Osborne, Jr., son of the Mayor.

Other objections and complaints to losing their PO are as follows:

- People on postal routes didn't get notices

of the US Postal Service's (USPS) intention to put Auburn on a discontinuance list;

- Some Auburn residents don't have cars, so they walk to the PO (but couldn't walk the nine miles to Troy);

- One businessman related that he sends 50-to-100 parcels per month, via the mail ("If I have to drive to Troy, I'll have to raise my prices.);

- The Auburn PO's revenues are decreased, due to the mail being sent to Troy now, which

Continued on page 4.

Auburn may lose its Post Office, townspeople told continued ...

Continued from page 1

increases Troy's revenues (not a fair deal);

- The Troy PO would have to be enlarged, which would be an added taxpayer expense, if this scenario to place Auburn mail at Troy comes true; and

- If the Auburn PO closes, people will just send their packages by UPS or FedEx (Hence, further decreasing revenues for the USPS);

Samuel Grossa, now the Clarksburg Postmaster who had been Glenville's some years ago, and Kenny Shaffer, both representing the USPS, conducted the meeting. Mr. Grossa did the talking, while Mr. Shaffer took notes of the citizens' comments and concerns.

At the meeting's outset, Mr. Grossa stated that "no decision has been made to close the Auburn PO."

At the same time, statewide news reports have divulged that the USPS has started discontinuance proceedings for 27 communities, of which two-thirds are located in Southern West Virginia.

Although Mr. Grossa sympathized with the audience, he stressed, "The Postal Service is losing \$23 million a day, due to the increasing use of e-

mails, faxes, and texting, rather than using the mail."

"We need to change with these times," he further emphasized, noting that one factor working against Auburn's PO is that it hasn't had a postmaster since 2008.

Even though no decision has been made at the USPS's headquarters in Washington, DC, if it is made to close the unit, the townspeople will have 180 days to write letters in support of the Auburn PO.

Many questions, however, neither Mr. Grossa nor Mr. Shaffer could answer, the latter official admitting "We'll know the fate of the Auburn PO when someone up above hands it down to us. We're just here to take down your comments on how a closure will impact you."

Toward the end of the two-hour plus meeting, State Delegate Woody Ireland (Rep.-7th Dist.-Ritchie), of nearby Pullman, stated, "We'd like to comment on this to the USPS in writing, before the final decision is made. Afterwards, there's no use in us protesting it."

Docile at first, once the meeting got rolling, and the community discontent surfaced, as citizens took out their well-concealed placards, reading "Don't Close Auburn's P.O."

Date of Posting: 06/01/2011

Posting Round Date:

Date of Removal: 08/02/2011

Removal Round Date:

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE
THE AUBURN, WV POST OFFICE
AND EXTEND
SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE

DOCKET NUMBER 1353656 - 26325

Date of Posting: 06/01/2011

Date of Removal: 08/02/2011

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

INVITATION FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE AUBURN, WV POST OFFICE AND ESTABLISH SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE

To the customers of the Auburn Post Office:

The Postal Service is considering the close of the Auburn Post Office for reasons stated in the accompanying proposal.

During the 60-day posting period from 06/01/2011 through 08/02/2011 you are invited to provide written comments. Comments will be most helpful if they offer specific opinions and information favorable or unfavorable regarding the potential effect of the proposed change on postal services and on the community. Your comments will be carefully considered and will be incorporated into the official record, which will be made public if the proposal is finalized.

Copies of the proposal and optional comment forms are available upon request at the Auburn Post Office. If you choose to use the optional comment form and need additional space, please attach additional sheets of paper.

Please return the comment form to:

PAUL BRADSHAW
PO BOX 59992
CHARLESTON, WV 25350-9992

For more information, you may call PAUL BRADSHAW at (304) 561-1251 or write to the above address.

Thank you for your assistance.



KEVIN CLARK
PO BOX 59992
CHARLESTON, WV 25350-9992



02/07/2011

ROBERT CAVINDER
DISTRICT MANAGER
APPALACHIAN PFC

SUBJECT: Authority to Conduct Investigation

I request your authorization to investigate a possible change in postal services for the office in the 1 congressional district.

Post Office Name:	AUBURN
Zip+4 Code:	26325-9998
EAS Level:	11
Finance Number:	550372
County:	Ritchie
Proposed Admin Office:	TROY
ADMIN Miles Away:	9.5
Near Office Name:	TROY
Near Miles Away:	9.5
Number of Customers:	
Post Office Box:	47
General Delivery:	0
Rural Route (RR):	95
Highway Contract Route (HCR):	25
Intermediate RR:	0
Intermediate HCR:	0
City Delivery:	0
Total Customers:	167
ZIP Code Change:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZIP Code
Maintain Town Name:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

The above office became vacant when the postmaster retired on 01/03/2008.

Workload and revenue has declined due to the small number of customers and minimal number of daily retail transactions. The Postal Service feels continued operations of the Auburn Post Office may not be warranted. The Troy Post Office, along with established Highway Contract Route delivery will provide regular and effective service to the Auburn community.

KEVIN CLARK
Manager, Post Office Operations

Approval to Study for Discontinuance:

ROBERT CAVINDER
DISTRICT MANAGER
APPALACHIAN PFC

02/07/2011

DATE

cc: Area Manager, Public Affairs and Communication



Docket: 1353656

NOTICE OF POST OFFICE EMERGENCY SUSPENSION

A. Office

Name: AUBURN State: WV Zip Code: 26325
Area: EASTERN District: APPALACHIAN PFC
Congressional District: 1 County: Ritchie
EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 550372
Post Office: ☒ Classified Station ☐ Classified Branch ☐ CPO ☐

• There was no Emergency Suspension for this office

Prepared by: Paul Bradshaw
Title: APPALACHIAN PFC Post Office Review Coordinator
Tele No: (304) 561-1251

Date: 05/17/2011
Fax No: (304) 561-1209



NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS/DISTRICT PERSONNEL OF SUSPENSION

A. Office

Name: AUBURN State: WV Zip Code: 26325
Area: EASTERN District: APPALACHIAN PFC
Congressional District: 1 County: Ritchie
EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 550372
Post Office: ☒ Classified Station ☐ Classified Branch ☐ CPO ☐

There was no Emergency Suspension for this office

Prepared by: Paul Bradshaw
Title: APPALACHIAN PFC Post Office Review Coordinator
Tele No: (304) 561-1251

Date: 05/17/2011
Fax No: (304) 561-1209

Google maps

Directions to Auburn Post Office

Auburn, WV 26325

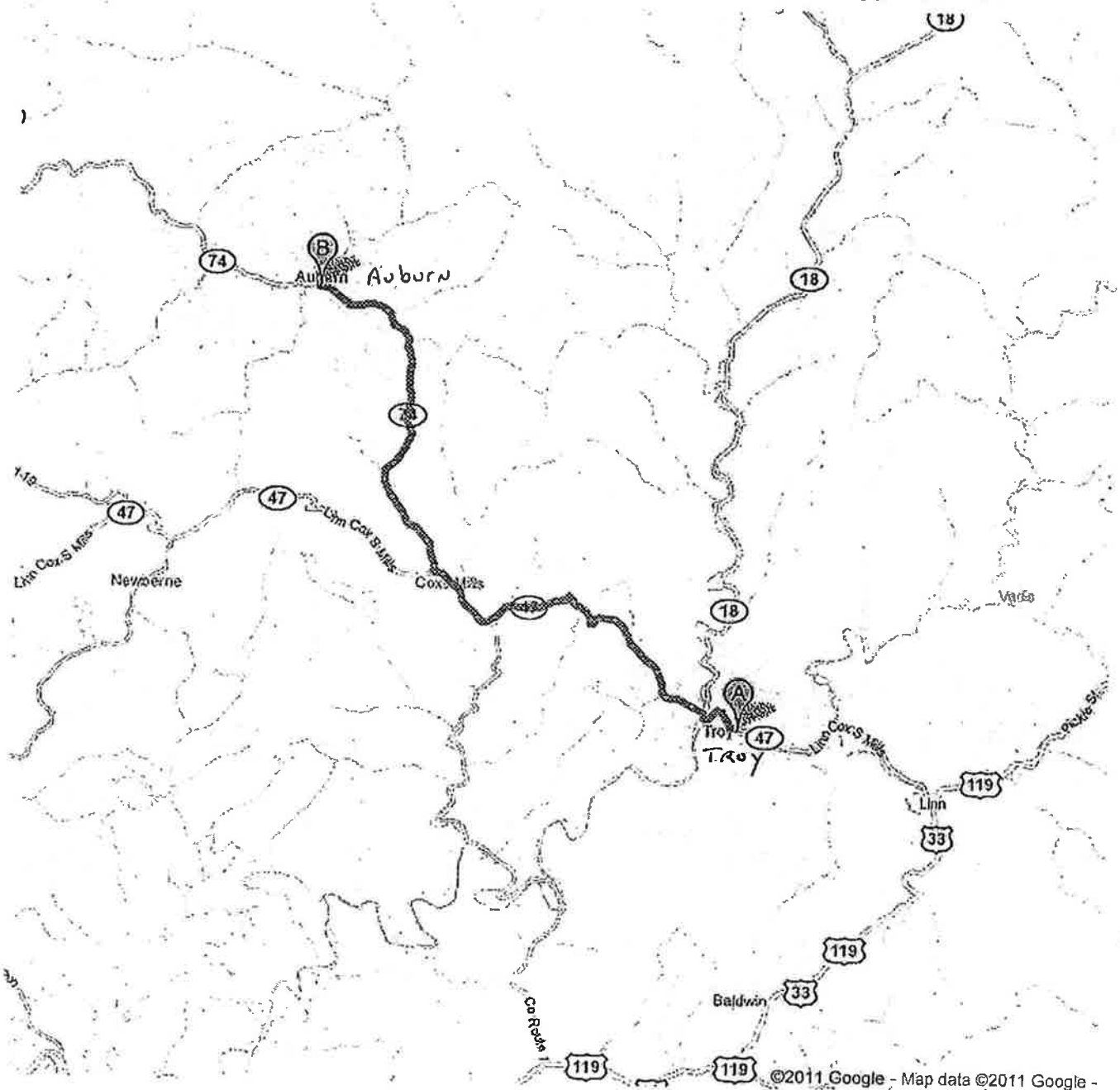
9.5 mi - about 14 mins

Auburn Post Office to Troy Post Office

DOCKET NO. 1353656

ITEM NO. 4

PAGE 1





Eviction Notice

A. Office

Name: AUBURN State: WV Zip Code: 26325
Area: EASTERN District: APPALACHIAN PFC
Congressional District: first County: Richie
EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 550372
Post Office: ☒ Classified Station ☐ Classified Branch ☐ CPO ☐

There was no eviction notice for this office

Prepared by: Paul Bradshaw
Title: APPALACHIAN PFC Post Office Review Coordinator
Tele No: (304) 561-1251

Date: 04/20/2011
Fax No: (304) 561-1209



Building Inspection Report

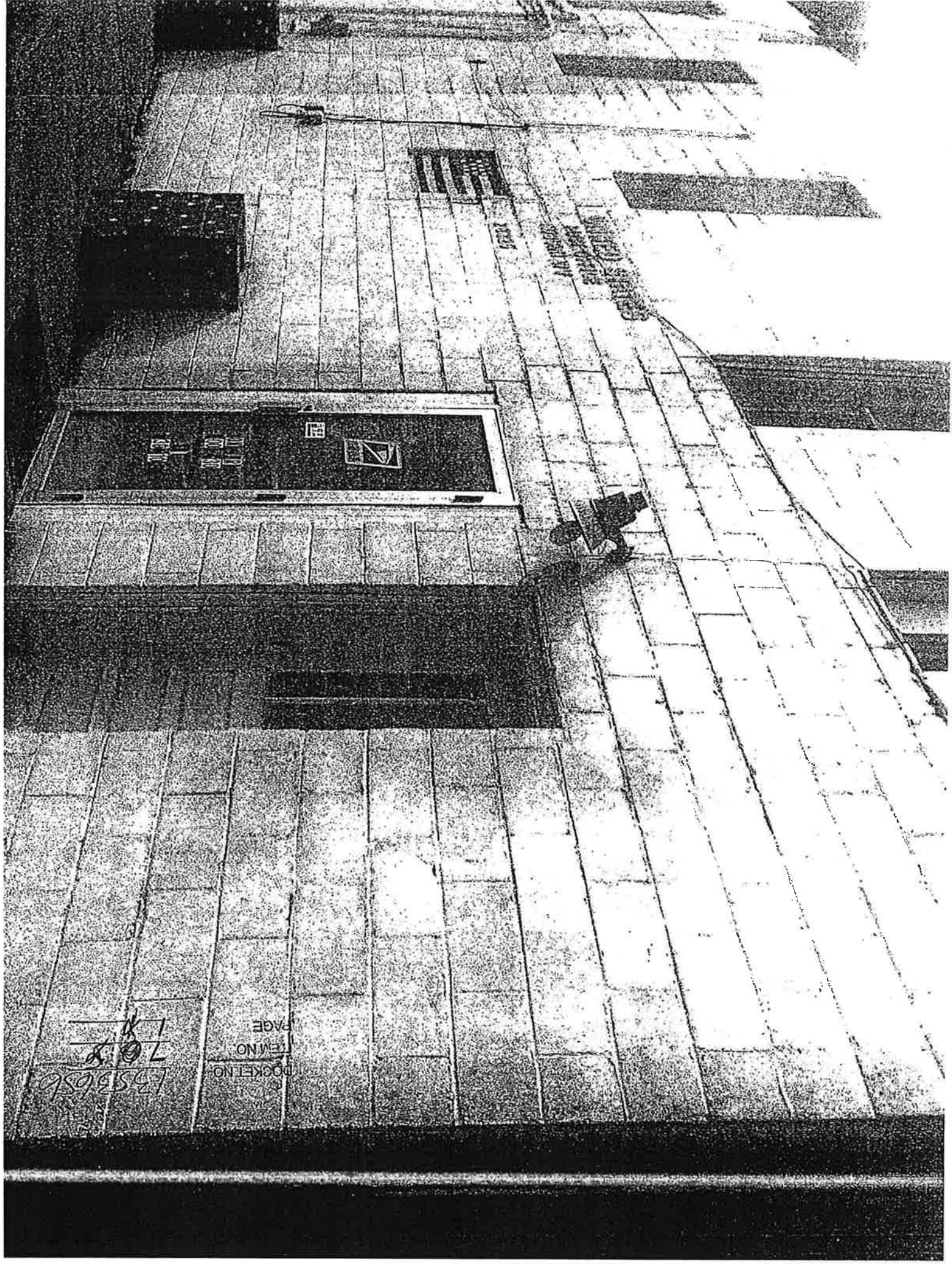
A. Office

Name: AUBURN State: WV Zip Code: 26325
Area: EASTERN District: APPALACHIAN PFC
Congressional District: first County: Richie
EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 550372
Post Office: ☒ Classified Station ☐ Classified Branch ☐ CPO ☐

- There was no building inspection report nor photos for this office

Prepared by: Paul Bradshaw
Title: APPALACHIAN PFC Post Office Review Coordinator
Tele No: (304) 561-1251

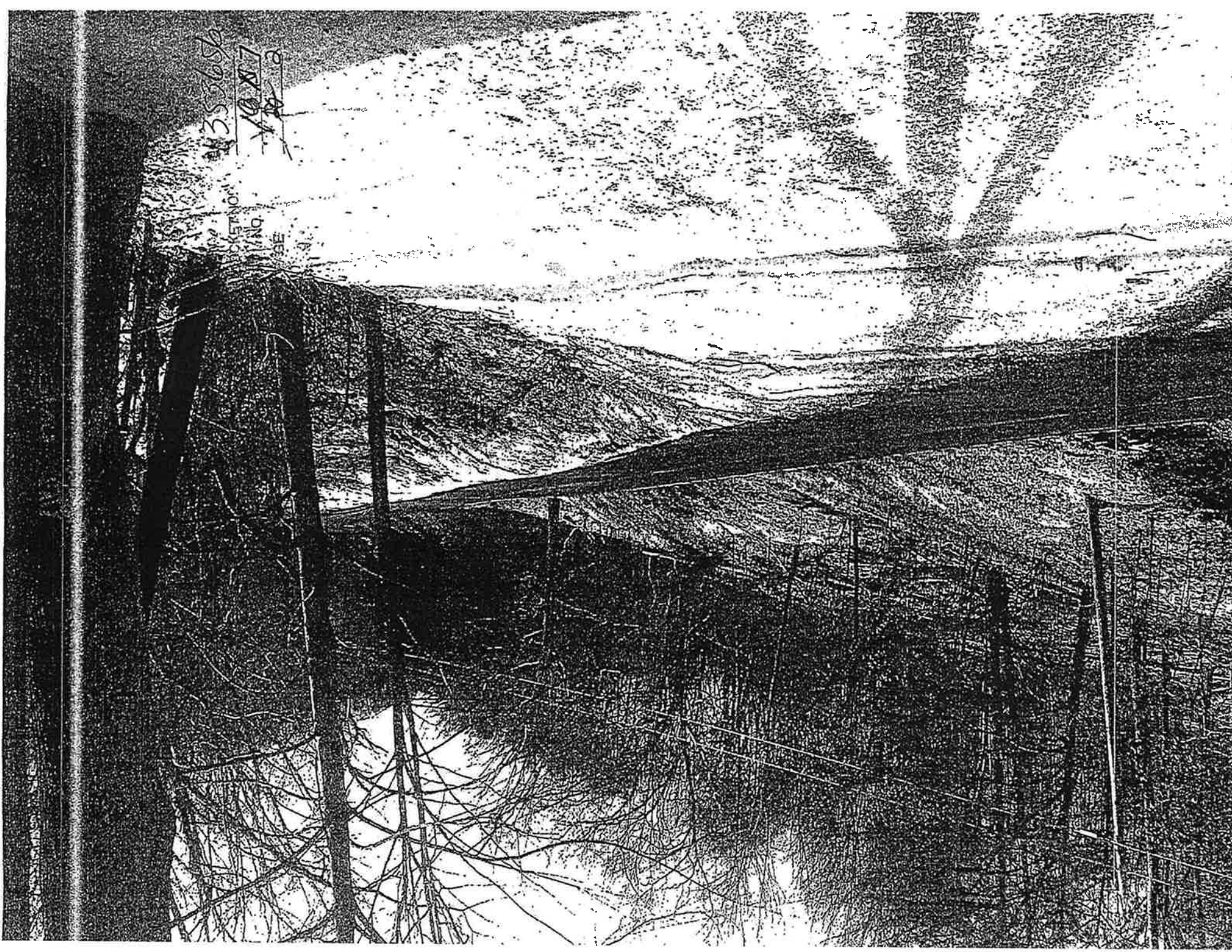
Date: 04/20/2011
Fax No: (304) 561-1209



DOCKET NO. 1353656
ITEM NO. 708
PAGE 1

353656
1087
1082

ET NO.
No.
SE



PS Form 150, Postmaster Workload Information

Post Office, State & Zip Code AUBURN, WV 26325		Postmaster's Signature	Date
District Office, State & Zip Code APPALACHIAN PFC, WV 25350		District Manager's Signature Robert Cavinder	Date 02/15/2011
(Check Box)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vacancy <input type="checkbox"/> Management Review <input type="checkbox"/> RFR		See Instructions on Reverse	
1.	Current Office Level		11
2.	Finance Number	(1-6)	550372
3.	General Delivery Families Served	(7-9)	0
4.	Post Office Boxes/Call Boxes Rented	(10-15)	47
5.	Possible City Deliveries	(16-20)	0
6.	Administrative Rural Boxes Served	(21-25)	95
7.	Intermediate Rural Boxes Served	(26-30)	0
8.	Administrative Responsibility form Intermediate Rural Boxes for Other Offices	(31-35)	0
9.	Administrative Highway Contract/Star Route Boxes Served	(36-39)	25
10.	Intermediate Highway Contract/Star Route Boxes Served	(40-43)	0
11.	Administrative Responsibility for Intermediate Highway Contract/Star Route Boxes for Other Offices	(44-47)	0
12.	Number of Carrier Stations/Branches	(48-49)	0
13.	Number of Finance Stations/Branches	(50-51)	0
14.	Number of Contract Stations/Branches & Community Post Offices	(52-53)	0
15a.	Does Office Experience A Seasonal Workload? (box one "Y" of yes, "N" for no) (If you answer "yes" of this question, complete 'Seasonal Workload' section on reverse.)	(54)	N
15b.	Duration of Experience A Seasonal Workload? (minimum of 8 weeks)	(55-56)	0
16.	Does Office Perform Outgoing Distribution for Other Offices?	(57)	N
17.	Does Office Perform Incoming Distribution for Other Offices?	(58)	N
18.	Does Office Perform Incoming Secondary Distribution for Other Offices?	(59)	N
19.	Do You Separate All Incoming Letter Size Mail to City & Rural Carrier Routes for Your Own Office?	(60)	N
20.	Do You Separate All Incoming Flat Size Mail to City & Rural Carrier Routes for Your Own Office?	(61)	N
21.	Do You Have Responsibility for Vehicle Maintenance Facilities?	(62)	N
22.	Does Your Office Have Administrative Responsibility for an Air Transfer Office?	(63)	N
23.	Is Postmaster Lessor for Government Owned Building?	(64)	N
24.	Does Office Have MPLSM/SPLSM?	(65)	N
25.	Does Office Distribute Food Stamps?	(65)	N



135365
70/8
38

BOOKING
NO.
PRICE

Worksheet for calculating Workload Service Credit (WSC) for Post Offices

Worksheet for calculating Workload Service Credit (WSC) for Post Offices

Office Name: AUBURN
Office Zip+4: 26325 -9998 District: APPALACHIAN PFC

Activity WSCs

General Delivery Families Served (Item 3, PS Form 150)	<u>0</u>	X 1.0	=	<u>0</u>
Post Office Boxes/Call Boxes Rented (Item 4, PS Form 150)	<u>47</u>	X 1.0	=	<u>47</u>
Possible City Deliveries (Item 5, PS Form 150)	<u>0</u>	X 1.33	=	<u>0</u>
Administrative Rural Boxes Served (Item 6, PS Form 150)	<u>95</u>	X 1.0	=	<u>95</u>
Intermediate Rural Boxes Served (Item 7, PS Form 150)	<u>0</u>	X 0.7	=	<u>0</u>
Administrative Responsibility for Intermediate Rural Boxes for Other Offices (Item 8, PS Form 150)	<u>0</u>	X 0.3	=	<u>0</u>
Administrative Highway Contract/Star Route Boxes Served (Item 9, PS Form 150)	<u>25</u>	X 1.0	=	<u>25</u>
Intermediate Highway Contract/Star Route Boxes Served (Item 10, PS Form 150)	<u>0</u>	X 0.7	=	<u>0</u>
Administrative Responsibility for Intermediate Highway Contract/Star Route Boxes for Other Offices (Item 11, PS Form 150)	<u>0</u>	X 0.3	=	<u>0</u>
Total Activity WSCs				<u>167</u>

Revenue WSCs

First	25 revenue units: 1.00	X	<u>25</u> units	=	<u>25.00</u>
Next	275 revenue units: 0.50	X	<u>4</u> units	=	<u>2.00</u>
Next	700 revenue units: 0.25	X	<u>0</u> units	=	<u>0.00</u>
Next	5000 revenue units: 0.10	X	<u>0</u> units	=	<u>0.00</u>
	Balance of revenue units: 0.01	X	<u>0</u> units	=	<u>0.00</u>
Total revenue WSCs:					<u>27.00</u>

Activity WSCs 167 + Revenue WSCs = 27.00 Base WSCs 194.00 = EAS Grade 11

Previous evaluation: EAS grade 11

Effective date of change in service hours: _____ (if appropriate)
(when a vacancy exists, hours must reflect the appropriate EAS grade)

Worksheet completed by:

PAUL BRADSHAW

PAUL.D.BRADSHAW@USPS.GOV

Printed Name

Signature

APPALACHIAN PFC District Review Coordinator

02/15/2011

Title

Date

PS Form 150, Postmaster Workload Information

Docket 1353655
Page Nbr 8a

	Normal	During Seasonal Period
General Delivery Families Served	0	0
Post Office Boxes/Call Boxes Rented	47	0
Possible City Deliveries	0	0
Administrative Rural Boxes Served	95	0
Intermediate Rural Boxes Served	0	0
Administrative Responsibility/Number Intermediate Rural Boxes	0	0
Administrative Highway Contract/Star Route Boxes Served	25	0
Intermediate Highway Contract/Star Route Boxes Served	0	0
Administrative Responsibility/Number Intermediate Highway Contract/Star Route Boxes	0	0

Instructions

- Enter current evaluated office level.
- Enter the 6 digit post office finance number.
- Enter number of general delivery families served.
- Enter total number of post office boxes and call boxes rented. Do not confuse with the total number available. This total should include boxes rented at classified stations/branches as well as the main office including GPO's.
- Enter total possible city deliveries. The total reported should equal the total possible deliveries shown on Form 1821, Carrier Route Report for the previous accounting period.
- Enter the number of administrative boxes served. This is the number of rural route boxes served, within your ZIP Code ONLY by carriers administratively reporting to you. Do not include boxes on the routes which are in the ZIP Code of an intermediate office.
- Enter the number of intermediate rural boxes served. This is the number of rural boxes, within your ZIP Code, served by a carrier administratively reporting to another postmaster. For credit, the mail must be incoming to your office and separated to the routes within your ZIP Code by you or your employees prior to carrier sequencing.
- Enter the number of intermediate rural boxes for which you are administratively responsible. This is the number of boxes served by a carrier administratively responsible to you, but which are located in the ZIP Code for another office.
- Enter the number of administrative highway contract star route boxes served. This is the total number of star route boxes served within your ZIP Code ONLY by a contractor for whom you have administrative responsibility. Do not include boxes on the routes which are in the same ZIP Code of an intermediate office.
- Enter the number of intermediate highway contract star route boxes served. This is the total number of star route boxes served within your ZIP Code ONLY by a contractor who administratively reports to another Postmaster. For credit the mail must be incoming to your office and separated to the contract route by you or your employees.
- Enter the number of intermediate highway contract star route boxes for which you are administratively responsible. This is the number of boxes served by a contractor for whom you are administratively responsible and which are located in the ZIP Code of another office.
- Enter the number of classified stations and/or branches that have carrier delivery service.
- Enter the number of classified finance stations and/or branches (without carrier delivery service) staffed by postal employees.
- Enter the total number of contract stations, rural stations and community post offices.
 - A contract station is a detached finance unit manned by non-postal employees.
 - A rural station is a post office box delivery unit serviced by a rural carrier.
 - A community post office is a contract unit which provides service in a small community.
- To receive credit for a seasonal workload increase the items shown on the seasonal workload portion of the form must show a 25% increase and must last for a minimum of 8 weeks. The Christmas Season is not to be considered as a seasonal workload increase. Should your office have a seasonal workload increase you should enter the exact number of weeks the season lasts and complete the seasonal workload portion of the form in its entirety.

Questions 16 Thru 25 Should Be Answered Y (Yes) or N (No)

- Does office separate massed outgoing mail originating in other associate offices to three digit ZIP CODE designating offices and/or area distribution centers and demonstrate a buying, facing and cancelling operation?
- Does office separate massed three digit sorted incoming mail to a five digit sort for other associate offices?
- Does office separate incoming mail to carrier routes for other associate offices?
- Does office separate all incoming letter size mail to city, rural and/or star routes?
- Does office separate all incoming flats to city and/or rural carrier routes without assistance from an MPC?
- Do you have a vehicle maintenance facility under your jurisdiction?
- Do you have an air transfer office under your jurisdiction?
- Do you occupy a government-owned building and lease a portion of the building to someone else?
- Does your office operate a Multiple Position Letter Sorting Machine (MPLSM) or Single Position Letter Sorting Machine (SPLSM)?
- Does your office distribute food stamps?

Window Transaction Survey

Window Transaction Survey

PO Name: AUBURN ZIP+4: 26325 - 9998 Completed By: TERRY LUCADO
Survey Period: 02/05/2011 through 02/18/2011

Record the number of retail window transactions in the appropriate columns for each day. Consider a sale of stamps as one transaction. A sale of stamps and a money order is two transactions. Do not record the handing out over the counter of box mail, general delivery mail, or carrier mail. Instead of this worksheet, you may use PS Form 2007-A, Window Transaction Record; PS Form 2007-B, Window Transaction Conversion; and PS Form 2007-C, Window Transaction Survey. Use hash marks (///) for daily entries in the columns. To obtain the average daily number of transactions, divide the total number of transactions during the survey period by the number of days in the survey. The allowable time per transaction is shown in each column in minutes. To determine the average daily workload in minutes, multiply the number of transactions in each column by the time conversion for that column, total the time conversions for all columns, and divide the total number of minutes by the number of days in the survey period.

Day/Date	Postage Sales (.777)	Priority Parcels Money Orders (1.083)	Express Registered C.O.D (1.969)	Passports Meter Settings (5.06)	Box Rent (2.875)	Certified Insured Special Service (1.792)	Misc. Services (1.787)	Nonrevenue Services (1.188)
Sat - 02/05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sun - 02/06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mon - 02/07	28	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Tue - 02/08	32	16	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wed - 02/09	36	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Thu - 02/10	44	10	1	0	1	2	0	0
Fri - 02/11	44	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sat - 02/12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sun - 02/13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mon - 02/14	36	12	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tue - 02/15	32	2	2	0	0	2	0	0
Wed - 02/16	36	4	1	0	1	2	0	0
Thu - 02/17	36	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fri - 02/18	42	12	1	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	366	65	11	0	4	6	0	0
Time Factor	X .777	X 1.083	X 1.969	X 5.06	X 2.875	X 1.792	X 1.787	X 1.188
Daily Average	28.4	7.0	2.2	0.0	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.0
Average Number Daily Transactions:				45.2	Average Daily Retail Workload in Minutes:			39.9

Survey of Incoming Mail

Survey of Incoming Mail
(Record in Pieces)

Post Office Name and Zip+4 AUBURN 26325 - 9998
Dates Recorded 02/05/2011 through 02/18/2011

Date	Letters		Flats		Parcels		Other	
	First Class	Standard	First Class	Standard	Priority	Standard		
Sat - 02/05	233	0	115	0	15	0	0	0
Sun - 02/06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mon - 02/07	403	0	77	0	10	0	0	0
Tue - 02/08	344	0	67	1	10	0	0	0
Wed - 02/09	459	0	58	1	4	0	0	0
Thu - 02/10	231	0	153	41	4	0	0	0
Fri - 02/11	308	0	38	0	5	0	0	0
Sat - 02/12	230	0	48	0	2	0	0	0
Sun - 02/13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mon - 02/14	458	0	67	0	6	0	0	0
Tue - 02/15	175	0	134	1	5	0	0	0
Wed - 02/16	305	0	19	2	7	0	0	0
Thu - 02/17	266	0	182	43	4	0	0	0
Fri - 02/18	230	0	38	0	5	0	0	0
TOTALS	3,642	0	996	89	77	0	0	0
Daily Average	303.5	0.0	83.0	7.4	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0

Signature of Person Making Count: VRZ8GB
Printed Name: VRZ8GB
Date: 03/08/11

Conversion Rate

Letter Type	Total Pieces Per Foot	Flat Type	Total Pieces Per Foot
Manual Letters	227	Manual Flats	115
Automated Letters	215	Automated Flats	115
Sequenced Letters	227	Sequenced Flats	115

Conversion rates are subject to periodic updates which will be published and disseminated when applicable.

Survey of Dispatched Mail

Survey of Dispatched Mail
(Record in Pieces)

Post Office Name and Zip+4

AUBURN 26325 - 9998

Dates Recorded

02/05/2011 through 02/18/2011

Date	Letters		Flats		Parcels		Other	
	First Class	Standard	First Class	Standard	Priority	Standard		
Sat - 02/05	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sun - 02/06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mon - 02/07	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tue - 02/08	105	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Wed - 02/09	14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Thu - 02/10	112	0	0	1	4	0	0	0
Fri - 02/11	104	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Sat - 02/12	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sun - 02/13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mon - 02/14	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tue - 02/15	24	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Wed - 02/16	50	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Thu - 02/17	23	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fri - 02/18	52	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	656	0	0	2	15	0	1	0
Daily Average	54.7	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.0

Signature of Person Making Count:

TERRY LUCADO

Printed Name:

TERRY LUCADO

Date:

04/20/11



02/23/2011

OIC/POSTMASTER

SUBJECT: AUBURN Post Office

Please provide the names and addresses of businesses, religious institutions, civic organizations, and local government offices, and schools that are served by the AUBURN Post Office. The list of businesses should include small, part-time and in-home businesses, as well as public institutions, such as schools, police departments, etc; religious institutions and businesses physically located outside the community that use retail services on a routine basis at the AUBURN Post Office. Also, please provide the total number of permit mailers and postage meter customers. Indicate in the space below the total number of Post Office box, general, and street delivery customers served by the office. Return all documents to PAUL BRADSHAW by 03/09/2011. This information will be entered into the official record for public viewing.

Post Office Box	<u>47</u>
General Delivery	<u>0</u>
Rural Route (RR)	<u>95</u>
Highway Contract Route (HCR)	<u>25</u>
Intermediate RR	<u>0</u>
Intermediate HCR	<u>0</u>
City Delivery	<u>0</u>
Total Customers	<u>167</u>

If you have any comments on alternate means of providing services to the AUBURN customers, please provide them below:

PAUL BRADSHAW
Post Office Review Coordinator

Comments:

Auburn Baptist, Auburn Cash & Carry, Auburn 4-H Club, Auburn Methodist, Sunny Hollow Farm, Community Asst., The Church of God, Black Bear Historical Clothing, Education Outreach, Town of Auburn, I No Tech, Country Cabinet Maker

cc: Official Record



02/16/2011

SUBJECT: Possible Discontinuance of Post Office

The Postal Service is currently conducting an investigation concerning the possible discontinuance of the AUBURN Post Office, 26325 - 9998, located in Ritchie County. Please search your records for any recent reports of mail theft or vandalism in the area.

Please enter your findings in the yellow blocks below. Once complete please click submit. You can print from above. Signatures are captured electronically.

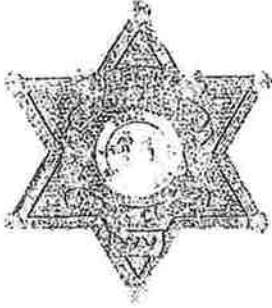
Thank you for your assistance in this matter

PAUL BRADSHAW
Post Office Review Coordinator
APPALACHIAN PFC

NBR records of mail theft or vandalism: 2

Comments/Findings:

cc: Official Record



Ritchie County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Bryan D. Backus

109 North Street, Harrisville, WV 26362
Phone: 304-643-2262 FAX: 304-643-4208
Tax Division: 304-643-2164 Ext-239

BOOKET NO.

1353656
12/14
2

United States Postal Service
USPS Appalachian District
Teresa Price, Review Coordinator
P.O. Box 59601
Charleston, WV 25350-9601

Ms. Price,

2/11/11

This correspondence is being provided in response to your inquiry, regarding thefts and/or vandalism complaints related to the Auburn Post Office. To date we have not logged any formal complaints through our office involving the Auburn Post Office. However, if you have a specific date or time that an incident is alleged to have happened we can check officer daily duty logs to see if anything has been logged for information purposes. If you agency has any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact our office.

Sheriff Bryan Backus

Post Office Survey Sheet

Post Office Name	AUBURN	ZIP+4	26325-9998
Congressional District	1	Date	05/20/2011

1. List specific information about the facility, such as structural defects, safety hazards, lack of running water or restrooms (if so, where restrooms are available), security, and other deficiencies or factors to consider.

This is inside a store area - this building belongs to the PMR

2. Is the facility accessible to persons with disabilities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

3. Lease terms? 30-day cancellation clause? yes

4. Are suitable alternate quarters available for an independent Post Office? If so, where?
Post office is attached to a store.

5. List potential CPO sites.

6. Are there any postage meter customers or permit mailers? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, please identify them by name and address.

7. Which career and noncareer employees will be affected and what accommodations will be made for them?
PMR The noncareer postmaster relief may be separated from the Postal Service.

8. How is mail received and dispatched at the office and at what times? How will this be affected by discontinuance? Will a collection box be retained? Will a locked pouch be utilized?

Mail arrives before 08:00 and is dispatched after 16:30 via Highway Contract Route. A collection box will not be retained. A locked pouch will not be utilized.

How many Post Office boxes are installed? 200

How many Post Office boxes are used? 47

What are the window service hours? 8:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 4:30 M-F

9:30 to 10:30 S

What are the lobby hours? 8:00 to 4:30 M-F

9:30 to 10:30 S

9. Have there been recent cases of mail theft or vandalism reported to the postmaster/OIC? Explain.
No

10.	What equipment in the Post Office is not owned by the Postal Service (e.g., Post Office Boxes, furniture, safe)? None
11.	List potential CBU/parcel lockers sites and distances from present Post Office site. N/A
12.	Are there any special customer needs? (People who cannot read or write, who cannot drive, who have infirmities or physical handicaps, etc.) How can these people be accommodated? No. There are people in the community who cannot read or write. These customers may be assisted by the mail carrier's or the employees of the Troy Post Office.
13.	Rural delivery/HCR delivery. a. What is current evaluation? N/A b. Will this change result in the route being overburdened? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If so, what accommodations will be made to adjust the route? c. How many boxes and miles will be added to the route? 47, box 2.00 Miles d. What would be the additional annual expense if the route is increased? 3630 e. What is the one-time cost of CBU/parcel locker installation (if appropriate)? 1200 f. At what time of the day does the carrier begin delivery to the community? 9:00 Will this delivery time be affected if the office is discontinued? (Y or N) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If so, how? 0
14.	Are the Post Office box fees at the facility that will provide alternative service different from those at the office to be discontinued? If so, how (Cost)? <input type="checkbox"/> More <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same <input type="checkbox"/> Less

Community Survey Sheet

Community Survey Sheet

Post Office Name AUBURN ZIP+4 26325-9998
 Congressional District 1 Date 05/20/2011

1. Incorporated? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 Local government provided by: the City of Auburn
 Police protection provided by: Ritchie County Sheriff's Department
 Fire protection provided by: Volunteer Fire Department
 School location: Troy
2. What population growth is expected? (Please document your source)
the zip code demographic report expects a .19% decrease in the next five years.
3. What residential, commercial, or business growth is expected? (Please document your source)
the zip code demographic report expects a .19% decrease in the next five years.
4. History. (Are there any special historical events related to the community?
 Are there any special community events to consider?
 Is the Post Office facility a state or national historic landmark (see ASM 515.23)?
 Check with the field real estate office when verification is needed.)
none
5. What is the geographic/economic make-up of the community (e.g., retirees, commuters, self-employed, farmers)?
farmers and retirees
6. Which nonpostal services are provided by the Post Office (e.g., public bulletin board,
 school bus stop, community meeting location, voting place, government form distribution center.
 Do employees of the office offer assistance to senior citizens and handicapped)?
 What provisions can be made for these services if the Post Office is discontinued?
none

ZIP CODE DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

DOCKET NO.

F.

S.

1353656
17/16
2

Post Office Name: Auburn, WV
ZIP Code: 26325

Total Population:		Total Households:	
2010	266	2010	103
2015	262	2015	102

Projected Annual Household Growth Rate: -0.19%

Planning 2010 Dataset

New ZIP Code Search

| [Home](#) | [USPS Blue](#) | [Assistance](#) |

Highway Contract Route Cost Analysis Form

Highway Contract Route Estimated Cost for Alternative Service

Office Name: AUBURN

Office Zip+4: 26325 -9998

District

APPALACHIAN PFC

1. Enter the number of additional boxes to be added to the route 47 x 3.64 hours per year 171.08

2. Enter the number of additional miles to be added to the route 2.00 x 10.40 hours per year 20.80

Total time added to the route 191.88

3. Enter the HCR hourly rate (Contact Area Manager, Purchasing/Contracting Officer) 18.92

Total additional compensation (HCR hourly rate x total time added to the route) 3,630.37

U.S. Postal Service POST OFFICE CLOSING OR CONSOLIDATION PROPOSAL Fact Sheet				1. Date Prepared 05/17/2011																																								
2. Post Office Name AUBURN		3. State and ZIP + 4 Code WV, 26325-9998																																										
4. District, Customer Service APPALACHIAN PFC	5. Area, Customer Service EASTERN	6. County Ritchie	7. Congressional District 1																																									
8. Reason for Proposal to Discontinue Workload and revenue has declined with the small number of customers and minimal number of daily retail transactions. The Postal Service feels continued operations of the Auburn Post Office may not be warranted. The Troy Post Office and Highway Contract Route delivery within the community will continue to provide a maximum degree of regular and effective service.		9. PO Emergency Suspend (Reason and Date) No Suspension		10. Proposed Permanent Alternate Service																																								
11. Staffing		12. Hours of Service																																										
a. <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM Vacancy Reason & Date: retired Occupied 01/03/2008 b. <input type="checkbox"/> OIC <input type="checkbox"/> Career <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Career c. Current PM POSITION Level (150)EAS-11 Downgraded from EAS-11 d. No of Clerks- 0 No of Career- 0 No of Non-Career- 0 e. No of Others- 0 No of Career- 0 No of Non-Career- 0		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>a. Time M-F 8:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 4:30</td> <td>Sat 9:30 to 10:30</td> <td rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Total Window Hours Per Week 41.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>a. Lobby Time M-F 8:00 to 4:30</td> <td>Sat 9:30 to 10:30</td> </tr> </table>			a. Time M-F 8:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 4:30	Sat 9:30 to 10:30	Total Window Hours Per Week 41.00	a. Lobby Time M-F 8:00 to 4:30	Sat 9:30 to 10:30																																			
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13. Number of Customers Served		14. Daily Volume (Pieces)																																										
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>a. General Delivery</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>b. P.O. Box</td><td style="text-align: center;">47</td></tr> <tr><td>c. City Delivery</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>d. Rural Delivery</td><td style="text-align: center;">95</td></tr> <tr><td>e. Highway Contract Route Box</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td></tr> <tr><td>f. Total</td><td style="text-align: center;">167</td></tr> <tr><td>g. No. Receiving Duplicate Service</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>h. Average No. Daily Transactions</td><td style="text-align: center;">45.20</td></tr> </table>		a. General Delivery	0	b. P.O. Box	47	c. City Delivery	0	d. Rural Delivery	95	e. Highway Contract Route Box	25	f. Total	167	g. No. Receiving Duplicate Service	0	h. Average No. Daily Transactions	45.20	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Types of Mail</th> <th>Received</th> <th>Dispatched</th> </tr> <tr><td>a. First-Class</td><td style="text-align: center;">303</td><td style="text-align: center;">54</td></tr> <tr><td>b. Newspaper</td><td style="text-align: center;">90</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>c. Parcel</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>d. Other</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>e. Total</td><td style="text-align: center;">399</td><td style="text-align: center;">55</td></tr> <tr><td>f. No. of Postage Meters</td><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>g. No. of Permits</td><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> </table>			Types of Mail	Received	Dispatched	a. First-Class	303	54	b. Newspaper	90	0	c. Parcel	6	1	d. Other	0	0	e. Total	399	55	f. No. of Postage Meters	0		g. No. of Permits	0	
a. General Delivery	0																																											
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a. First-Class	303	54																																										
b. Newspaper	90	0																																										
c. Parcel	6	1																																										
d. Other	0	0																																										
e. Total	399	55																																										
f. No. of Postage Meters	0																																											
g. No. of Permits	0																																											
Finances a. FY 2008 2009 2010		Receipts \$ 14,326 \$ 13,300 \$ 11,241	b. EAS Step 1 PM Basic Salary (no Cola) \$ 33168	c. PM Fringe Benefits (33.5% of b.) \$ 11,111																																								
15a. Quarters																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Postal Owned <input type="checkbox"/> Leased (if Leased, Expiration Date) 10/31/2013 Annual Lease \$ 7155 30-day cancellation clause? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Evicted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (if Yes, must vacate by) Located in: <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Suitable alternate quarters available? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No																																												
15b. Explain: 90 day cancellation clause																																												
17. Schools, Churches and Organization in Service Area: No: 6 Auburn Baptist, Auburn Methodist, The Church of God, Auburn Wo He Lo 4-H Club, Auburn Community Assoc, Auburn Community Educational Outreach		19. Administrative/emanating Office (Proposed): Name TROY PO EAS Level 13 Miles Away 9.5 Window Service Hours: M-F to 16:15 SAT 8:30 to 10:15 Lobby Hours: M-F to 16:30 SAT 8:30 to 10:30 PO Boxes Available: 37																																										
18. Businesses in Service Area: No: 6 Auburn Cash and Carry, Sunny Hollow Farm, Black Bear Historical Clothing, Town of Auburn, I No Tech and the Country Cabinet Maker		20. Nearest Post Office (if different from above): Name TROY PO EAS Level 13 Miles Away 9.5 Window Service Hours: M-F to 16:15 SAT 8:30 to 10:15 Lobby Hours: M-F to 16:30 SAT 8:30 to 10:30 PO Boxes Available: 37																																										
21. Prepared by																																												
Printed Name and Title PAUL BRADSHAW		Signature PAUL BRADSHAW		Telephone No. AC () (304) 561-1251																																								
PO Discontinuation Coordinator Name PAUL BRADSHAW		Telephone No. AC () (304) 561-1251		Location CHARLESTON, WV																																								



A. Office

Name: AUBURN State: WV Zip Code: 26325
Area: EASTERN District: APPALACHIAN PFC
Congressional District: first County: Richie
EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 550372
Post Office: ☒ Classified Station ☐ Classified Branch ☐ CPO ☐

This form is a place holder for number 19. And the verification of new service type is complete.

Prepared by: Paul Bradshaw
Title: APPALACHIAN PFC Post Office Review Coordinator
Tele No: (304) 561-1251

Date: 04/20/2011
Fax No: (304) 561-1209



03/16/11

OIC/POSTMASTER

SUBJECT: AUBURN Post Office

Enclosed are questionnaires addressed to customers of the AUBURN Post Office. I have also enclosed additional copies of the questionnaires for any retail or other customer who wishes to complete one. Please furnish these questionnaires to retail customers upon request. All completed forms should be forwarded to my office by 04/01/11 for further review.

Paul Bradshaw
Post Office Review Coordinator
Enclosures

AUBURN

DOCKET NO.

1353656

ITEM NO.

22

PAGE NO.

1

This form is a place holder for number 22.
Final document will contain the:
Returned Customer Questionnaires and
Postal Service response letters.



Docket: 1353656 - 26325

Item Nbr: 21

Page Nbr: 1

03/21/2011

Dear Postal Service Customer:

As the Postal Service manager responsible for all Post Offices in your area, I would like your opinion concerning a possible change in the way your postal service is provided. The recommended change is tentative and will not lead to a formal proposal unless we conclude that it will provide a maximum degree of regular and effective service.

The postmaster at the AUBURN Post Office retired on 01/03/2008. A review of the business activities of the Post Office revealed that the office workload had declined. Our office review revealed an average 45.40 daily retail window transactions. This reduced workload suggests that the maintenance of an independent office at AUBURN may not be warranted.

Briefly, we would like to provide pickup and delivery of your mail, as well as the sale of stamps and all other customary postal services, by Highway Contract Route Service emanating from the TROY PO.

We estimate that carrier service would cost the Postal Service substantially less than maintaining the Post Office in your community and still provide regular and effective service. Enclosed is information about some of the services available from the carrier. Retail services are also available at the TROY PO, located 9.5 miles away. Hours of service at this office are 08:00 16:15, Monday through Friday, and 08:30 10:15 on Saturday. Post Office box service is available at this location at the same fees.

I invite you to think about a possible change to Highway Contract Route Service. Please return the enclosed questionnaire by 04/08/2011 using the pre-addressed envelope provided or at the community meeting.

You may, of course, want to discuss this form of service with us before drawing any conclusions. Postal representatives will be at the Auburn Community Building on 04/08/2011 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm to answer questions and provide information about our service. You may wish to discuss and submit your questionnaire at that time.

If you have any questions, you may call Teresa Price at (304) 561-1052.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL GROSSA
Manager, Post Office Operations
PO Box 59992
Charleston, WV, 25350-9992

Enclosures:

Questionnaire and return envelope Summary of Post Office Change Regulations,
Carrier delivery information CBU information sheet (when appropriate),
Summary of Post Office change regulations

Postal Service Customer Questionnaire Analysis

Questionnaires were distributed to all delivery customers of the AUBURN Post Office on 03/21/2011. Additionally, during the survey period, questionnaires were available at the AUBURN Post Office to walk-in retail customers.

1. Number of Questionnaires

Total questionnaires distributed	180
Favorable to proposal	3
Unfavorable to proposal	14
Expressing no opinion	37
Total questionnaires received	54

Postal Concerns

The following postal concerns were expressed

1. Concern (No Opinion):
Customer expressed a concern about leaving money in the mailbox.
Response:
The Rural Carrier buys your stamps for you at the end of the day when he finish's the route. Since he is based out of Troy WV, that is the most convenient place for him to buy stamps and then sort it for delivery to you the next day. Customers may place a note in their mailboxes instructing the carrier to sound their horn when they arrive, in order to transact financial business.
2. Concern (No Opinion):
Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to adminoffice Post Office to pick up their mail.
Response:
Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the administrative postmaster.
3. Concern (No Opinion):
Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community.
Response:
The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.
4. Concern (No Opinion):
Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery.
Response:
Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.
5. Concern (No Opinion):
Customers were concerned about mail security.
Response:
Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.
6. Concern (No Opinion):
Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier.
Response:
Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using Form 3227-R, Stamp Purchase Order (Rural), available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage **paid order form envelope**, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

HOLDING MAIL

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office

during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

7. Concern (No Opinion):

Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

Response:

Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to . Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.

8. Concern (No Opinion):

No Concern

Response:

9. Concern (No Opinion):

You expressed a concern that you don't qualify for rural delivery service.

Response:

There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be at least 14 feet wide and maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel. You can ask for an extension of delivery (PS FORM 4027) if you feel you may qualify for this service.

10. Concern (No Opinion):

You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service.

Response:

Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

11. Concern (Unfavorable):

Customer expressed a concern about leaving money in the mailbox.

Response:

A questionnaire was sent to the postal inspection service concerning mail theft and vandalism in the Auburn Post Office area. Their records indicate that there has not been any report of mail theft or vandalism in the area. However, customers may place a note in their mailboxes instructing the carrier to sound their horn when they arrive, in order to transact financial business.

12. Concern (Unfavorable):

Customer expressed a concern about leaving money in the mailbox.

Response:

A questionnaire was sent to the postal inspection service concerning mail theft and vandalism in the suspended Post Office area. Their records indicate that there has not been any report of mail theft or vandalism in the area. However, customers may place a note in their mailboxes instructing the carrier to sound their horn when they arrive, in order to transact financial business.

13. Concern (Unfavorable):

Customers asked why their post office was being discontinued while others were retained.

Response:

Post offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.

14. Concern (Unfavorable):

Customers expressed concern about collection of outgoing mail.

Response:

Collection of mail will be made by the carrier when serving the route. The customer should raise the flag on the mailbox to alert the carrier that outgoing mail is to be collected from the mailbox.

Concern (Unfavorable):

15. Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to adminoffice Post Office to pick up their mail.

Response:

Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the administrative postmaster.

16. Concern (Unfavorable):

Customers stated the town was incorporated and should have a postmaster.

Response:

The incorporated status of a town has no bearing on its requirements for postal services.

17. Concern (Unfavorable):

Customers were concerned about later delivery of mail.

Response:

A customer's location on a carrier's line of travel determines the time of day mail is delivered. This, of course, precludes providing early delivery of mail to every customer because, no matter how we structure a route, somebody must be last. We do, however, carefully consider the volume of mail for each route so that we can deliver the greatest amount of mail at the earliest possible hour. With the largest fleet of delivery vehicles in the world we must pay special attention to energy conservation measures, to minimize vehicle and fuel expenses. When the price of gasoline goes up one cent per gallon our total gasoline cost rises more than \$8 million. Therefore, when structuring a route, we must balance our goal to deliver as much mail as possible as early as possible with the need to minimize the travel distance a route must cover.

18. Concern (Unfavorable):

Customers were concerned about mail security.

Response:

Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.

19. Concern (Unfavorable):
Customers were concerned about obtaining accountable mail and large parcels.

Response:

If you live less than one-half mile from the line of travel, the carrier will attempt delivery of accountable items and large parcels to the customer's residence. If the live over one-half mile away or is not home when delivery is attempted, a notice will be left in the mailbox. Large parcels will be left outside the mailbox or at a designated location or a notice will be left in the mailbox. Attempted delivery items will be taken back to the administrative Post Office. Customers may pick up the item at the post office, request redelivery on another day or authorize delivery to another party.

20. Concern (Unfavorable):
Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier

Response:

Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using Form 3227-R, Stamp Purchase Order (Rural), available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

HOLDING MAIL

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

21. Concern (Unfavorable):
No Concern
Response:
22. Concern (Unfavorable):
You expressed a concern that you don't qualify for rural delivery service.

Response:

There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be at least 14 feet wide and maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel. You can ask for an extension of delivery (PS FORM 4027) if you feel you may qualify for this service.

23. Concern (Unfavorable):
You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service.

Response:

Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

Nonpostal Concerns

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed

1. Concern (Unfavorable):
Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.

Response:

A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the suspended Post Office name and ZIP Code.

Community Meeting Roster

Postal Service Representative (Names and Titles):
Samuel E. Grossa (A MPOD Area 10)
Kenneth Shaffer POSTMASTER BEVERLY LA

Date: 04/08/2011
 Time: 6:00 pm

Total Number of Customers Present: _____

Place: Auburn Community Building

This document may become a part of the official record that will be available for public viewing.

Names of Customers Present:

Name	Mailing Address (optional)	Zip Code	Phone Number
William Osborne	P.O. Box 12	26325	304-349-2271
Reba Osborne	PO BOX 12	26325	304-349-2271
Denise Duellay	817 W. North, Har.	26362	304-643-4363
Jennifer Mytheny	The Pennsboro News		304-643-4947
Dreama Osborne	PO Box 29	26325	304-349-2524
Laingie Osborne	PO Box 12	26325	304-349-2271
Lerald P. Bostick	2157 Sun Valley Rd	26325	304-349-5285
Clifford E. Bostick	2157 Sun Valley Rd	26325	304-349-5285
Allen Blackburn	P.O. Box 35	26325	304-349-2535
Jerome Spawks	P.O. Box 113	26325	304-349-2535
Leona Spawks	R.R. 1 Box 38A	26325	304-349-2535
Randy Kensler	3193 Sun Valley bl ^{PO Box}	26325	304-349-2910
Yvri Kensler	PO Box 61	26325	304-349-2910
Logan Kensler	PO Box 61	26325	304-349-2910
Colleen Kensler	PO Box 61	26325	304-349-2910
Siona Osborne	PO Box 1	26325	304-349-2316
Jane Williams	441 West ^{PAE} Main	26325	304-749-2079
Sherry Combs	P.O. Box 102	26325	304-349-2104
Derek Combs	P.O. Box 102	26325	304-349-2104

Community Meeting Roster

Postal Service Representative (Names and Titles):

Date: 04/08/2011
 Time: 6:00 pm

Total Number of Customers Present: _____

Place: Auburn Community Building

This document may become a part of the official record that will be available for public viewing.

Names of Customers Present:

Name	Mailing Address (optional)	Zip Code	Phone Number
Kelly Combs	P.O. Box 102	26325	349-2104
Harold Schene	RI BOX 157	26456	349-2529
Joe Smith	RI Box 2	26325	349-2007
Bill Wilson	11939 Auburn Rd	26325	349-2569
David Wilson	Auburn Rd 4	26325	349-4460
Rebecca Frasure	PO Box 4 Auburn	26325	349-4460
Robert E. Lawton Jr	RI Box 16-D Auburn	26325	349-2257
Dustin W. Haddox	12419 Auburn Rd	26325	349-2757
Ethel Keener	32 Old Mill Ln	26327	659-2089
Elaine Casto	PO Box 87 Auburn	26325	349-4502
David Cast	PO Box 87 Auburn	26325	349-4502
Ronald L. O'Neal	11979 Auburn Rd	26325	349-2421
Kevin Sheets	P.O. Box 41 Auburn	26325	349-2407
Elizabeth Smith	788 Pond, Fort Rd	26325	304-349-4025
JOHN KIDDE	2642 KIDDE HWY	26325	304-349-2423
Stella Williams	441 Westman Lane	26325	304-349-2079
Miss Brown	8662 Auburn Rd	26325	304 349 2090
Rocky Brown	8662 AUBURN Rd	26325	304 349 2090
LARRY W. BRYAN	Auburn Rd	26325	304 462 5532

Community Meeting Roster

Postal Service Representative (Names and Titles):

Date: 04/08/2011
 Time: 6:00 pm

Total Number of Customers Present: _____

Place: Auburn Community Building

This document may become a part of the official record that will be available for public viewing.

Names of Customers Present:

Name	Mailing Address (optional)	Zip Code	Phone Number
Kodys Graham	342 Pullman Treland Rd.	26421	
Violet Hardinger	P.O. Box 4 Auburn	26325	304-349-2692
Lion Kerlin	P.O. Box 6 Auburn	26325	
Wanda Brum	124 Dolphin Dr	26324	
Violet Hardinger	12376 Auburn Rd.	26325	(304) 349-2483
Margaret Wadley	P.O. Box 51	26325	304 349-2515
Eslee Fisher	P.O. Box 14	26325	= 349 2132
Barbara Watson	P.O. Box 4	26325	(304) 349-4460
Norman Collins	P.O. Box 54	26325	304-349-2557
Doug Frederick	P.O. Box 43	26325-0043	304 349-2655
Erna Van Natta	728 Brushy Fork Rd	26325	304 349 2130
Barbara Ruff	P.O. Box 92	26325	304-349-4205
Stacey Riddle	2197 Riddle Hill Rd	26325	304-349-2588
Michelle Hornsby	P.O. Box 112	26325	304-349-2401
Barbara Hornsby	P.O. Box 86 Auburn	26325	304 349-2110
Brenda Lilly	P.O. Box 63 Auburn	26325	349-2432
Terry Lilly	P.O. Box 63 Auburn	26325	349-2432
Carolyn Brideman	P.O. Box 3 Auburn	WV 26325	304-349-2060
Nancy Powers	P.O. Box 94 Auburn	WV 26325	304-349-2565

Postal Service Customer Community Meeting Analysis

(categorize customer concerns as postal or nonpostal and provide the Postal Service response for each.)

Postal Concerns

1. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customer expressed concern over the possibility of traveling further to mail parcels.
Response:
Carrier Pickup(USPS.com): This service allows customers to schedule the pickup of their mail piece(s) at the same time their mail is delivered by their carrier. There is no additional charge for Carrier Pickup when the mail can be picked up during the carrier's line of travel. When a customer schedules this service via the Internet, it alerts the Postmaster via a computer application that generates carrier instructions for customer Carrier Pickup requests.
2. Concern (UnFavorable):
You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service.
Response:
Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.
3. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup.
Response:
Rural carriers will deliver packages that fit in your rural mail box, if the package does not fit in the mail box, the carrier will deliver the package up to ½ mile off of the line of travel, at a designated place, such as on your porch or under a carport.
4. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers were concerned about mail security.
Response:
Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.
5. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery.
Response:
Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.
6. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers asked why their post office was being discontinued while others were retained.
Response:
Post offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.
7. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers were concerned about a change of ZIP Code.
Response:
The proposed change of the ZIP Code may be necessary due to 911 addressing requirements.
8. Concern (UnFavorable):
You expressed a concern that customers requested and were denied rural delivery service
Response:
There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be at least 14 feet wide and maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel.
9. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers were concerned about the quality of service, reliability, and integrity of the contractor.
Response:

Community Meeting Roster

Postal Service Representative (Names and Titles):

Date: 04/08/2011
Time: 6:00 pm

Total Number of Customers Present:

Place: Auburn Community Building

This document may become a part of the official record that will be available for public viewing.

Names of Customers Present:

[illegible]

DOCKET NO. 1353656
ITEM NO. 25
PAGE 3



Ritchie County
Economic Development Authority

Phone: 304.643.2505
Fax: 304.643.2502
rceda@zoominternet.net

PO Box 177
217 West Main Street
Harrisville, WV 26362

April 8, 2011

Manager of Post Office Operations
Mr. Eric Grossa
200 Cava Drive
Clarksburg, WV 26301

RE: Auburn Post Office in Ritchie County

Dear Mr. Grossa,

The Ritchie County Economic Development Authority voted at their April 7, 2011 meeting to write a letter opposing the closing of the Auburn Post Office in Ritchie County.

Auburn is made up of elderly and low income residents, many of whom either do not drive or do not own a vehicle. The closest post office would be 5 miles away, making it impossible for some to get to another post office. The Town of Auburn is already isolated, as it is, and the possibility of losing the post office would cause the town to become even more desolate.

The closing would prove to be detrimental to its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Richard L. Edman, President

~~award of the contract is based on evaluation of criteria including an individual's character, submission ability and background, and the quality and location of the facility. The successful bidder must be bonded and will be trained, administered, and supervised by the Postal Service to ensure high standards of service.~~

10. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers were concerned about obtaining accountable mail and large parcels.

Response:

If you live less than one-half mile from the line of travel, the carrier will attempt delivery of accountable items and large parcels to the customer's residence. If the live over one-half mile away or is not home when delivery is attempted, a notice will be left in the mailbox. Large parcels will be left outside the mailbox or at a designated location or a notice will be left in the mailbox. Attempted delivery items will be taken back to the administrative Post Office. Customers may pick up the item at the post office, request redelivery on another day or authorize delivery to another party.

Nonpostal Concerns

1. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers stated the town was incorporated and should have a postmaster.

Response:

The incorporated status of a town has no bearing on its requirements for postal services.

2. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

Response:

Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.

3. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to adminoffice Post Office to pick up their mail.

Response:

Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the administrative postmaster.

4. Concern (UnFavorable):
Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.

Response:

A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the suspended Post Office name and ZIP Code.



DOCKET NO. 1353656
ITEM NO. 28
PAGE 5

June 14, 2011

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4804

Dear Senator Manchin:

This is in response to your May 24 letter on behalf of Ms. Siona Osborne of Auburn, regarding the Post Office in that community.

Thank you for sharing Ms. Osborne's concerns. As you are aware, the U.S. Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. As a result of dramatic declines in mail volume, the Postal Service continues to experience significantly reduced revenue. In fact, over the past five years, mail volume has declined by 43.1 billion pieces, customer visits have decreased by 200 million, and retail transactions have diminished by \$2 billion. In order to sustain universal mail service to the American people, we are taking every action within our control to cut costs and streamline operations across the organization.

Appalachian District officials confirm that the Auburn Post Office is being studied for possible discontinuance. The study is ongoing, and no final decision has been made. Please be assured that postal officials are devoting careful attention to this study, and customers will be notified in advance of any changes that may affect service in their area.

During this process, postal managers will consider the effect on the community and postal employees, the ability to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the affected community, and potential economic savings. Customers of an office considered for closing are provided opportunities, through questionnaires and public meetings, to share their concerns and views both on the action and on mail service alternatives. Before the Postal Service makes a decision to close or consolidate an independent Post Office, we comply with all the stipulations mandated by federal law. All final decisions are subject to review by the independent Postal Regulatory Commission, and the discontinuance procedures contained in Title 39, United States Code, are exercised before an independent Post Office can be permanently closed. If an office is closed, the office name is retained for use in local mailing addresses to preserve community identity.

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Page 2

Please be assured that any decision to discontinue operations at the Auburn Post Office will carefully balance our universal service responsibility and our statutory duty to operate in an efficient manner. Consideration of such matters will help ensure that the Postal Service furnishes a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services to the community well into the future.

Thank you for writing. If I can be of assistance in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,

(signed)

James K. Carl
Government Relations Representative

JOE MANCHIN III
WEST VIRGINIA

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PAGE 7

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

SUITE 303
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 221-3954

ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

May 24, 2011

Ms. Marie Therese Dominguez
Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy
U.S. Postal Service
475 Lenfant Plaza SW, Room 10804
Washington, D.C. 20260-0804

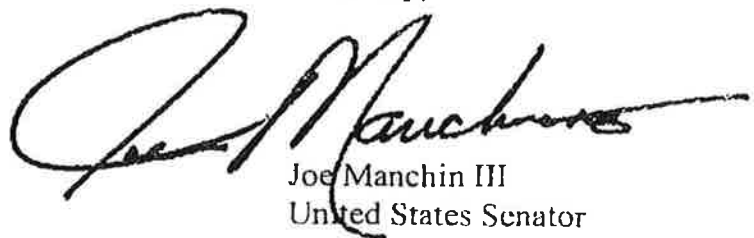
Dear Ms. Dominguez,

Please see the enclosed correspondence from Ms. Siona Osborne, Auburn, West Virginia, regarding her concern about the possible closure of the Auburn Post Office. I, too, am concerned about the impact this closing will have on the residents of Auburn, especially senior citizens.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter, and providing me a report. I look forward to your early reply.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JM/km
Enclosure

DOCKET NO. 135 3656
 ITEM NO. 28
 PAGE 8

E-Mail Viewer

Message | Details | Attachments | Headers | Source

[HTML](#)

From: "osborne.sionan@gsc.glenville.edu" <osborne.sionan@gsc.glenville.edu>
 Date: 4/1/2011 7:07:17 AM
 To: "webmail@manchin-iq.senate.gov" <webmail@manchin-iq.senate.gov>
 Cc:
 Subject: Save the Auburn Post Office

<IP>129.71.101.175</IP>
 <APP>SCCMAIL
 <PREFIX>Ms.</PREFIX>
 <FIRST>Siona</FIRST>
 <LAST>Osborne</LAST>
 <ADDR1>P.O. Box 1</ADDR1>
 <ADDR2></ADDR2>
 <CITY>Auburn</CITY>
 <STATE>WV</STATE>
 <ZIP>26325</ZIP>
 <PHONE></PHONE>
 <EMAIL>osborne.sionan@gsc.glenville.edu</EMAIL>
 <ISSUE>POST</ISSUE>

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Auburn is a small, low-income community consisting of retirees, small farms, and elderly/disabled. Auburn has an average total population of around 295 and a housing population of about 115. Many of these residents walk to the post office to pick up their mail and to purchase money orders to pay their bills. Closure of this post office will force residents to drive a greater distance to pick up packages and certified letters, as well as stamps, etc. This produces a problem for everyone but especially for the ones who are disabled and then there are those who don't own vehicles and therefore couldn't travel the distance. How are these residents suppose to receive their mail on a daily basis, along with everyone else?

We need help in achieving our goal to save the Auburn Post Office. We are doing everything we can from involving the media to the signing of petitions. Any help you would provide would be greatly appreciated by not only me but the entire Auburn community. Our final meeting to decide what happens is April 8th. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Siona Nicole Osborne</MSG>

</APP>

Section IV

Economic Savings

A statement of annual savings includes a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster salary (EAS- II, Minimum, no COLA)

\$ 33168

Fringe benefits 33.5%

\$ 11111

Rental costs, excluding utilities

\$ 7155

Total annual costs

\$ 51434

Less estimated cost of replacement service

- 3630

Total annual savings

\$ 47804

A one-time expense of \$ ① will be/was incurred for installation of CBUs and parcel lockers.

Is postmaster salary based on the minimum salary without COLA?

Does postmaster salary reflect the current office evaluation?

Section V

Other Factors

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration (if appropriate).

List other factors as appropriate.

Other factors when replacement service is a CPO.

Section VI

Summary

The proposal must include a brief summary that explains why the closing or consolidation is necessary and an assessment of how those factors supporting the need for change outweigh any negative factors. In taking competing considerations into account, the need to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular service must be paramount.

Section VII

Notices

Appropriate notice is made that this is a proposal and not a final determination. If a final determination is made to discontinue the office, information on the appeal process will be provided at that time.

Checklist Completed By:

Investigative Coordinator

Date

Reviewed and Certified By:

District PO Review Coordinator

Date

Paul D. Bradshaw
5/20/2011

Responsiveness to Community Postal Needs

Tell what we are doing and why.

Is reason for discontinuance justified and documented in the record?

If suspended, what type of alternate service customers are now receiving?

Reason for vacancy and information on postmaster/OIC

Number of customers and type of service they received and will receive.

Hours of service, daily window transaction average, number of permit mailers, and postage meter users.

Last three fiscal years of revenue and revenue units.

Decline in service workload/reduction in EAS level, if appropriate.

Nearest Post Office, office level, miles away, hours of service, number of Post Office boxes available.

Administrative/emanating office — office level, miles away, hours of service, number of Post Office boxes available.

If the nearby/administrative Post Office has a different Post Office box fee schedule, this is stated in the proposal.

Preproposal activities — questionnaires: number of favorable, unfavorable and no opinion responses must equal the total number of questionnaires returned. List customer concerns and Postal Service responses.

Community meeting. Number of customers who attended, customer concerns, and Postal Service responses.

Information on petitions and congressional inquiries included with Postal Service responses.

Revised proposal states dates and locations the proposal was posted for 60 days. Number of comments received, customer concerns and Postal Service responses.

Advantages and disadvantages of proposed alternate service.

Any other pertinent information concerning Postal Service needs.

Section II

Effect on the Community

Brief background of area, community government, population, etc.

Number of businesses, religious institutions, schools, local government offices, social organizations, etc.

Was Post Office used as meeting place?

Was Post Office a shelter for a bus stop?

Did the Post Office have a public bulletin board?

Were government forms available at the Post Office?

Did the Post Office provide assistance to senior citizens, persons with disabilities, etc.?

What is the historical value of the office?

Is an address change necessary?

Will the community identity be preserved?

What are the growth trends (flat, up, down)?

Were any other nonpostal items identified?

Section III

Effect on Employees

Paragraph explaining about postmaster vacancy/QIC/other career and noncareer employees of the office. If a postmaster or other employees are reassigned this must be explained and tell whether the reassignments are voluntary.

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E-Mail Viewer

Message | Details | Attachments | Headers | Source

HTML

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Sincerely,

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</APP>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

May 24, 2011

Ms. Marie Therese Dominguez
Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy
U.S. Postal Service
475 Lenfant Plaza SW, Room 10804
Washington, D.C. 20260-0804

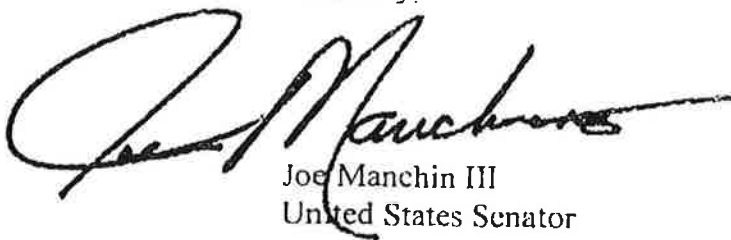
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I would appreciate your looking into this matter, and providing me a report. I look forward to your early reply.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JM/km
Enclosure



DOCKET NO. 1353656
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PAGE 5

June 14, 2011

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4804

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Page 2

Please be assured that any decision to discontinue operations at the Auburn Post Office will carefully balance our universal service responsibility and our statutory duty to operate in an efficient manner. Consideration of such matters will help ensure that the Postal Service furnishes a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services to the community well into the future.

Thank you for writing. If I can be of assistance in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,

(Signed)


James K. Cari
Government Relations Representative

Federal law provides that any decisions to discontinue a Post Office® must be based on consideration of the effect on the community served; the effect on the employees of the Post Office®; compliance with government policy established by law that the Postal Service® shall provide effective and regular Postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where Post Offices™ are not self-sustaining; the economic savings to the Postal Service™; and any other factors determined necessary by the Postal Service™. Before an office can be closed, our field managers must provide every opportunity for customers to voice their opinions and air their concerns. Questionnaires, meetings, and other methods are used to ensure that all issues are fully explored before any final decision is made. All final decisions are subject to review by the independent Postal Regulatory Commission. If an office is closed, the office name is retained for use in local mailing addresses to preserve community identity.

Although the Auburn, WV Post Office™ is currently undergoing a discontinuance study, your constituents may be assured that we will continue our efforts to meet the growing postal needs in their community. As a public service, we realize we have an obligation to hold the trust of our customers by providing good, reliable mail service. We are working very hard to maintain service standards and to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.

If I can be of assistance to you in any other postal matters, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Cavinder

cc: Postmaster, Auburn, WV
Manager, Post Office Operations — Area 7

DISTRICT MANAGER
APPALACHIAN DISTRICT

DOCKET NO. 1353656
ITEM NO. 28
PAGE 3



May 12, 2011

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
United States Senate
405 Capitol Street, Suite 508
Charleston, WV 25301-1783

Re: Ms. Siona Osborne
Case #: 1019058
Case Code: WWH

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

This letter is in response to your inquiry dated April 15, 2011 on behalf of your constituent Ms. Siona Osborne. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your concerns about the discontinuance study of the Auburn, WV Post Office®. We appreciate your interest and the opportunity to clarify our position in this matter.

Let me begin by explaining that the Postal Service™ is an exceptional federal agency, funded by the users of our services, not the taxpayers. This user-based funding restricts the costs for Postal operations to those who choose to send mail and eliminates the assessment for postal costs to taxpayers. We have not received an operational subsidy since 1982. A key part of our statutory mandate is to provide universal service at uniform rates. To do this, we must maintain a system capable of serving 130 million addresses each day. This involves thousands of Post Offices™, vehicles, processing facilities, and employees. Our statutory mandate also requires us to operate in a businesslike manner. For this reason, we have an obligation to use Postal resources wisely.

It would be ideal if we could provide every community across the country with the most modern, up-to-date Post Office®. Unfortunately, our current financial situation does not allow this. To remain in a fiscally responsible position while fulfilling our mandate to provide mail service to the entire nation, we must use ratepayer dollars wisely.

As you are aware, the United States Postal Service® is reviewing postal facilities throughout the nation, focusing on areas where we have a number of offices in close proximity. Streamlining our operations and improving efficiency across the board is a constant, ongoing process. By modifying networks, consolidating functions, adjusting delivery routes and restructuring administrative and processing operations, the Postal Service™ becomes a more efficient and effective organization. We are adapting to meet the evolving needs, demands and activities of our customers. This review process will identify opportunities to consolidate offices while maintaining a community presence. Each office is reviewed individually on a case-by-case basis.

E-Mail Viewer

[Message](#) | [Details](#) | [Attachments](#) | [Headers](#) | [Source](#)

[HTML](#)

From: "nobody@www.senate.gov" <nobody@www.senate.gov>
Date: 4/1/2011 7:08:17 AM
To: "webmail@rockefeller-iq.senate.gov" <webmail@rockefeller-iq.senate.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Save the Auburn Post Office

<IP>129.71.101.175</IP>
<APP>SCCMAIL
<PREFIX>Ms.</PREFIX>
<FIRST>Siona</FIRST>
<LAST>Osborne</LAST>
<ADDR1>P.O. Box 1</ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Auburn</CITY>
<STATE>WV</STATE>
<ZIP>26325</ZIP>
<PHONE>(304) 349-2316</PHONE>

<EMAIL>osborne.sionan@gsc.glenville.edu</EMAIL>

<ISSUE>POGE</ISSUE>

<MSG>My name is Siona Osborne; I am 26 years old and live in Auburn, West Virginia. I am writing to you to appeal the closure of the Post Office in our community. Due to revenue issues with our Post Office the United States Post Office officials are trying to close it. However there have been no official announcements made, there have been indications of its intended closure. I feel that our Post Office is the last thing we have that defines us as a community and by closing it our town will lose its identity.

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Sincerely,

Siona Nicole Osborne</MSG>

</APP>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

April 15, 2011

Mr. Robert A. Cavinder
District Manager
Appalachian District
United States Postal Service
Post Office Box 59992
Charleston, West Virginia 25350

Re: Ms. Siona Osborne
Case #: 1019058
Case Code: WWH

Dear Mr. Cavinder,

I have been contacted by Ms. Siona Osborne, of Auburn, regarding her concerns about the possible closure of the Auburn Post Office.

I have enclosed a copy of Ms. Osborne's correspondence for your review. If you would look into this matter and provide me with a report, I would appreciate it.

Please refer to the above Case Number and Case Code when responding. Send your findings to my State Office at 405 Capitol Street, Suite 508, Charleston, West Virginia 25301. Thank you, in advance, for checking into this matter for me.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

STATE OFFICE:
405 CAPITOL STREET, SUITE 508
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
(304) 347-6572
FAX: (304) 347-5371

NORTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE
118 ADAMS STREET, SUITE 301
FAIRMONT, WV 26654
(304) 367-0122
FAX: (304) 367-0822

SOUTHERN SATELLITE OFFICE:
229 NORTH KANAWHA STREET, SUITE 1
BEECHLEY, WV 25801
(304) 253-9704
FAX: (304) 253-2578

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE:
217 WEST KING STREET, SUITE 307
MARTINSBURG, WV 26401
(304) 262-9285
FAX: (304) 262-9288



A. Office

Name: AUBURN State: WV Zip Code: 26325
Area: EASTERN District: APPALACHIAN PFC
Congressional District: 1st County: Ritchie
EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 550372
Post Office: ☒ Classified Station ☐ Classified Branch ☐ CPO ☐

This form is a place holder for number 27. There was not a petition received.

Prepared by: Paul Bradshaw
Title: APPALACHIAN PFC Post Office Review Coordinator
Tele No: (304) 561-1251

Date: 05/04/2011
Fax No: (304) 561-1209



03/16/2011

As the Postal Service manager responsible for all Post Offices in your area, I would like your opinion concerning a possible change in the way postal services are provided. Our tentative plans will only lead to a formal proposal if we are satisfied that a maximum degree of regular and effective service can be provided.

The postmaster at the AUBURN Post Office retired on 01/03/2008. A review of the business activities of the Post Office revealed that the office workload had declined. Our office review revealed an average 45.40 daily retail window transactions. This reduced workload suggests that the maintenance of an independent office at AUBURN may not be warranted.

If you would like an opportunity to discuss alternatives with us, a postal representative will be at Auburn Community Building on 04/08/2011 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm to answer questions and provide information about our service.

If you have any questions, you may contact Paul Bradshaw at (304) 561-1251.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin Clark", written in a cursive style.

KEVIN CLARK
Manager, Post Office Operations

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
WEST VIRGINIA

SECRET NO. _____
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PAGE 1

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

April 15, 2011

Mr. Robert A. Cavinder
District Manager
Appalachian District
United States Postal Service
Post Office Box 59992
Charleston, West Virginia 25350

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Case #: 1019058
Case Code: WWH

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(304) 253-9704
FAX: (304) 253-2578

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE:
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</APP>

DISTRICT MANAGER
APPALACHIAN DISTRICT



DOCKET NO. 12-55
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PAGE 3

May 12, 2011

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
United States Senate
405 Capitol Street, Suite 508
Charleston, WV 25301-1783

Re: Ms. Siona Osborne
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Case Code: WWH

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This letter is in response to your inquiry dated April 15, 2011 on behalf of your constituent Ms. Siona Osborne. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your concerns about the discontinuance study of the Auburn, WV Post Office®. We appreciate your interest and the opportunity to clarify our position in this matter.

Let me begin by explaining that the Postal Service™ is an exceptional federal agency, funded by the users of our services, not the taxpayers. This user-based funding restricts the costs for Postal operations to those who choose to send mail and eliminates the assessment for postal costs to taxpayers. We have not received an operational subsidy since 1982. A key part of our statutory mandate is to provide universal service at uniform rates. To do this, we must maintain a system capable of serving 130 million addresses each day. This involves thousands of Post Offices™, vehicles, processing facilities, and employees. Our statutory mandate also requires us to operate in a businesslike manner. For this reason, we have an obligation to use Postal resources wisely.

It would be ideal if we could provide every community across the country with the most modern, up-to-date Post Office®. Unfortunately, our current financial situation does not allow this. To remain in a fiscally responsible position while fulfilling our mandate to provide mail service to the entire nation, we must use ratepayer dollars wisely.


As you are aware, the United States Postal Service® is reviewing postal facilities throughout the nation, focusing on areas where we have a number of offices in close proximity. Streamlining our operations and improving efficiency across the board is a constant, ongoing process. By modifying networks, consolidating functions, adjusting delivery routes and restructuring administrative and processing operations, the Postal Service™ becomes a more efficient and effective organization. We are adapting to meet the evolving needs, demands and activities of our customers. This review process will identify opportunities to consolidate offices while maintaining a community presence. Each office is reviewed individually on a case-by-case basis.

Federal law provides that any decisions to discontinue a Post Office® must be based on consideration of the effect on the community served; the effect on the employees of the Post Office®; compliance with government policy established by law that the Postal Service® shall provide effective and regular Postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where Post Offices™ are not self-sustaining; the economic savings to the Postal Service™; and any other factors determined necessary by the Postal Service™. Before an office can be closed, our field managers must provide every opportunity for customers to voice their opinions and air their concerns. Questionnaires, meetings, and other methods are used to ensure that all issues are fully explored before any final decision is made. All final decisions are subject to review by the independent Postal Regulatory Commission. If an office is closed, the office name is retained for use in local mailing addresses to preserve community identity.

Although the Auburn, WV Post Office™ is currently undergoing a discontinuance study, your constituents may be assured that we will continue our efforts to meet the growing postal needs in their community. As a public service, we realize we have an obligation to hold the trust of our customers by providing good, reliable mail service. We are working very hard to maintain service standards and to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.

If I can be of assistance to you in any other postal matters, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Cavinder

cc: Postmaster, Auburn, WV
Manager, Post Office Operations — Area 7

Proposal Checklist

Section I

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Responsiveness to Community Postal Needs

Tell what we are doing and why.

Is reason for discontinuance justified and documented in the record?

If suspended, what type of alternate service customers are now receiving?

Reason for vacancy and information on postmaster/OIC

Number of customers and type of service they received and will receive.

Hours of service, daily window transaction average, number of permit mailers, and postage meter users.

Last three fiscal years of revenue and revenue units.

Decline in service workload/reduction in EAS level, if appropriate.

Nearest Post Office, office level, miles away, hours of service, number of Post Office boxes available.

Administrative/emanating office — office level, miles away, hours of service, number of Post Office boxes available.

If the nearby/administrative Post Office has a different Post Office box fee schedule, this is stated in the proposal.

Preproposal activities — questionnaires: number of favorable, unfavorable and no opinion responses must equal the total number of questionnaires returned. List customer concerns and Postal Service responses.

Community meeting. Number of customers who attended, customer concerns, and Postal Service responses.

Information on petitions and congressional inquiries included with Postal Service responses.

Revised proposal states dates and locations the proposal was posted for 60 days. Number of comments received, customer concerns and Postal Service responses.

Advantages and disadvantages of proposed alternate service.

Any other pertinent information concerning Postal Service needs.

Section II

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Effect on the Community

Brief background of area, community government, population, etc.

Number of businesses, religious institutions, schools, local government offices, social organizations, etc.

Was Post Office used as meeting place?

Was Post Office a shelter for a bus stop?

Did the Post Office have a public bulletin board?

Were government forms available at the Post Office?

Did the Post Office provide assistance to senior citizens, persons with disabilities, etc.?

What is the historical value of the office?

Is an address change necessary?

Will the community identity be preserved?

What are the growth trends (flat, up, down)?

Were any other nonpostal items identified?

Section III

✓

Effect on Employees

Paragraph explaining about postmaster vacancy/OIC/other career and noncareer employees of the office. If a postmaster or other employees are reassigned this must be explained and tell whether the reassignments are voluntary.

Section IV

Economic Savings

A statement of annual savings includes a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster salary (EAS- 11, Minimum, no COLA)

\$ 33168

Fringe benefits 33.5%

\$ 11111

Rental costs, excluding utilities

\$ 7155

Total annual costs

\$ 51434

Less estimated cost of replacement service

- 3630

Total annual savings

\$ 47804

A one-time expense of \$ 0 will be/was incurred for installation of CBUs and parcel lockers.

Is postmaster salary based on the minimum salary without COLA?

Does postmaster salary reflect the current office evaluation?

Section V

Other Factors

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration (if appropriate).

List other factors as appropriate.

Other factors when replacement service is a CPO.

Section VI

Summary

The proposal must include a brief summary that explains why the closing or consolidation is necessary and an assessment of how those factors supporting the need for change outweigh any negative factors. In taking competing considerations into account, the need to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular service must be paramount.

Section VII

Notices

Appropriate notice is made that this is a proposal and not a final determination. If a final determination is made to discontinue the office, information on the appeal process will be provided at that time.

Checklist Completed By:

Investigative Coordinator

Date

Reviewed and Certified By:

District PO Review Coordinator

Date

Paul D. Bradshaw

5/20/2011



05/23/2011

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY
475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW RM 10804
WASHINGTON DC 20260-3500

SUBJECT: Posting of the Proposal to Close
the AUBURN Post Office
Docket No. 1353656

This is to advise you that on 06/01/2011, I will post for public comment a proposal to close the AUBURN Post Office in Ritchie County, Congressional District No. 1.

If you have any questions, please call PAUL BRADSHAW District Review Coordinator at (304) 561-1251.

ROBERT CAVINDER
District Manager
APPALACHIAN PFC District

cc: Manager, Customer Service Operations
Area Manager, Public Affairs and Communications

Enclosures: PS Form 4920
Proposal



05/25/2011

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE/POSTMASTER

SUBJECT: Letter of Instructions Regarding Posting of
AUBURN Proposal
Docket No. 1353656 - 26325

Please post the enclosed proposal to close the AUBURN Post Office in the lobby. The proposal must be posted in a prominent place from 06/01/2011 through close of business on 08/02/2011. The posting must last at least 60 days and the first day does not count.

Round-date stamp the cover of the proposal on the date of posting and on the date of removal. Also, post the "Invitation for Comments" next to the proposal and round-date stamp it in the same manner.

Additional copies of the proposal and comment forms are enclosed. Provide them to customers upon request.

Also enclosed is the official record on which this proposal is based. Customers may read it; however, they may not remove it from your office. When a customer requests a copy of the record, provide it upon payment of any fees prescribed in AS-353 Guide to Privacy and the Freedom of Information Act. If you do not have photocopy equipment, take the customer's name, address, and telephone number and contact the district for a copy of the record.

At the expiration of the posting period, further instructions will be provided. If there are any questions, please contact me at (304) 561-1251.

PAUL BRADSHAW
Post Office Review Coordinator
APPALACHIAN PFC District

Enclosures: PS Form 4920
Proposal
Invitation for Comments
Comment Forms
Official Record

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Auburn, WV Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by highway contract route service under the administrative responsibility of the Troy Post Office, located nine miles away. Service may be provided to cluster box units (CBUs).

CBUs are secure free-standing units of individually locked mail compartments installed and maintained by the Postal Service at no cost to the customer. A parcel locker may also be installed.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster is reassigned on January 03, 2008. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office is being studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: Workload and revenue has declined due to the small number of customers and minimal number of daily retail transactions. The Postal Service feels continued operations of the Auburn Post Office may not be warranted. The Troy Post Office, along with established Highway Contract Route delivery will provide regular and effective service to the Auburn community.

The Auburn Post Office, an EAS-11 level, provides service from 8:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 4:30 Monday - Friday , 9:30 to 10:30 Saturday and lobby hours of 8:00 to 4:30 on Monday - Friday and 9:30 to 10:30 on Saturday to 47 post office box or general delivery customers and 120 delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 45 transaction(s) accounting for 40 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by highway contract route service. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$14,326 (37 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$13,300 (35 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$11,241 (29 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were no permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On April 08, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at Auburn Community Building to answer questions and provide information to customers. 70 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On March 21, 2011, 180 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Auburn Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Auburn Post Office. 54 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 3 favorable, 14 unfavorable, and 37 expressed no opinion.

One congressional inquiry was received on April 18, 2011.

If this proposal is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Troy Post Office, an EAS-13 level office. Window service hours at the Troy Post Office are from 8:00 to 12:00 - 12:30 to 16:15, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 to 10:15 on Saturday. There are 37 post office boxes available.

The following concerns were expressed on the returned questionnaires, at the community meeting, from customer letters, on the petition, and from the congressional inquiry:

1. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about leaving money in the mailbox.

Response: A questionnaire was sent to the postal inspection service concerning mail theft and vandalism in the Auburn Post Office area. Their records indicate that there has been two reports of mail theft or vandalism in the area. However, customers may place a note in their mailboxes instructing the carrier to sound their horn when they arrive, in order to transact financial business.
2. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about leaving money in the mailbox.

Response: The Rural Carrier buys your stamps for you at the end of the day when he finish's the route. Since he is based out of Troy WV, that is the most convenient place for him to buy stamps and then sort it for delivery to you the next day. Customers may place a note in their mailboxes instructing the carrier to sound their horn when they arrive, in order to transact financial business.
3. **Concern:** Customers asked why their post office was being discontinued while others were retained.

Response: Post offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.
4. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern about collection of outgoing mail.

Response: Collection of mail will be made by the carrier when serving the route. The customer should raise the flag on the mailbox to alert the carrier that outgoing mail is to be collected from the mailbox.

5. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to the Troy Post Office to pick up their mail.
- Response:** Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the administrative postmaster.
6. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community.
- Response:** The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.
7. **Concern:** Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery.
- Response:** Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.
8. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about later delivery of mail.
- Response:** A customer's location on a carrier's line of travel determines the time of day mail is delivered. This, of course, precludes providing early delivery of mail to every customer because, no matter how we structure a route, somebody must be last. We do, however, carefully consider the volume of mail for each route so that we can deliver the greatest amount of mail at the earliest possible hour. With the largest fleet of delivery vehicles in the world we must pay special attention to energy conservation measures, to minimize vehicle and fuel expenses. When the price of gasoline goes up one cent per gallon our total gasoline cost rises more than \$8 million. Therefore, when structuring a route, we must balance our goal to deliver as much mail as possible as early as possible with the need to minimize the travel distance a route must cover.
9. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about mail security.
- Response:** Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.
10. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about obtaining accountable mail and large parcels.
- Response:** If you live less than one-half mile from the line of travel, the carrier will attempt delivery of accountable items and large parcels to the customer's residence. If the live over one-half mile away or is not home when delivery is attempted, a notice will be left in the mailbox. Large parcels will be left outside the mailbox or at a designated location or a notice will be left in the mailbox. Attempted delivery items will be taken back to the administrative Post Office. Customers may pick up the item at the post office, request redelivery on another day or authorize delivery to another party.
11. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier.

Response:

Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using Form 3227-R, Stamp Purchase Order (Rural), available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

HOLDING MAIL

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

12. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

Response:

Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.

13. **Concern:**

You expressed a concern that you don't qualify for rural delivery service.

Response:

There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be at least 14 feet wide and maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel. You can ask for an extension of delivery (PS FORM 4027) if you feel you may qualify for this service.

14. **Concern:**

You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service.

Response:

Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

15. **Concern:**

Customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup.

Response:

Rural carriers will deliver packages that fit in your rural mail box, if the package does not fit in the mail box, the carrier will deliver the package up to 1/4 mile off of the line of travel, at a designated place, such as on your porch or under a carport.

16. **Concern:**

Customer expressed concern over the possibility of traveling further to mail parcels.

Response:

Carrier Pickup(USPS.com): This service allows customers to schedule the pickup of their mail piece(s) at the same time their mail is delivered by their carrier. There is no additional charge for Carrier Pickup when the mail can be picked up during the carrier's line of travel. When a customer schedules this service via the Internet, it alerts the Postmaster via a computer application that generates carrier instructions for customer Carrier Pickup requests.

17. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about a change of ZIP Code.

Response:

The proposed change of the ZIP Code may be necessary due to 911 addressing requirements.

18. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about the quality of service, reliability, and integrity of the contractor.

Response:

Award of the contract is based on evaluation of criteria including annual monetary amount, contractor ability and background, and the quality and location of the facility. The successful bidder must be bonded and will be trained, administered, and supervised by the Postal Service to ensure high standards of service.

19. **Concern:**

You expressed a concern that customers requested and were denied rural delivery service

Response:

There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be at least 14 feet wide and maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel.

Some advantages of the proposal are:

1. The rural or contract delivery carrier may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

Some disadvantages of the proposal are:

1. The loss of a retail outlet and a postmaster position in the community. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Auburn is an unincorporated community located in Ritchie County. The community is administered politically by the City of Auburn. Police protection is provided by the Ritchie County Sheriff's Department. Fire protection is provided by the Volunteer Fire Department. The community is comprised of farmers and retirees, and those who commute to work at nearby communities and work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Auburn Baptist, Auburn Methodist, The Church of God, Auburn Wo He Lo 4-H Club, Auburn Community Assoc, Auburn Community Educational Outreach, Auburn Cash and Carry, Sunny Hollow Farm, Black Bear Historical Clothing, Town of Auburn, I No Tech and the Country Cabinet Maker. Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Auburn Post Office will be available at the Troy Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Troy Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed on the returned questionnaires, at the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

1. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.
Response: A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Auburn Post Office name and ZIP Code.
2. **Concern:** Customers stated the town was incorporated and should have a postmaster.
Response: The incorporated status of a town has no bearing on its requirements for postal services.
3. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to the Troy Post Office to pick up their mail.
Response: Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the administrative postmaster.
4. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

Response:

Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will not adversely affect the community.

III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

The postmaster retired on January 03, 2008. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the Postal Service. No other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected.

IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$ 47,804 with a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster Salary (EAS-11, No COLA)	\$ 33,168
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 11,111
Annual Lease Costs	<u>+ \$ 7,155</u>
Total Annual Costs	\$ 51,434
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	<u>- \$ 3,630</u>
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 47,804</u>

A one-time expense of \$ 1200 will be incurred for installation of CBUs and 0 parcel locker(s).

V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

VI. SUMMARY

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Auburn, WV Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by highway contract route service under the administrative responsibility of the Troy Post Office, located nine miles away. Service may be provided to cluster box units (CBUs).

The postmaster retired on January 03, 2008. If the office has a noncareer PMR(s), they may be separated from the Postal Service; however, attempts will be made to reassign the employee(s) to a nearby facility. No other employee(s) will be adversely affected. Post office workload has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by highway contract route service.

The Auburn Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 47 PO Box or general delivery customers and 120 delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged 45. There are no permit mailers or postage meter customers.

There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a post office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$47,804 annually. A disadvantage to some may be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with a rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this proposal is warranted.

VII. NOTICES

- A. Support Materials. Copies of all materials upon which this proposal is based are available for public inspection at the Auburn Post Office and Troy Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. This is a proposal. It is not a final determination to close this post office. If a final determination is made to close this post office, after public comments on this proposal are received and taken into account, a notice of that final determination will be posted in this office.

The final determination will contain instructions on how affected customers may appeal that decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission. Any such appeal must be received by the commission within 30 days of the posting of the final determination.



KEVIN CLARK
Manager, Post Office Operations

06/01/2011
Date

Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the AUBURN Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Name of Postal Customer

Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

City, State, and ZIP Code

Date

Date of Posting: 09/02/2011

Date of Removal: 10/04/2011

**FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE
THE AUBURN, WV POST OFFICE
AND EXTEND
SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE**

DOCKET NUMBER 1353656 - 26325

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the Auburn, WV Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by highway contract route service under the administrative responsibility of the Troy Post Office, located nine miles away. Service will be provided to cluster box units (CBUs).

CBUs are secure free-standing units of individually locked mail compartments installed and maintained by the Postal Service at no cost to the customer. A parcel locker may also be installed.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on January 30, 2010. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office was studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: Workload and revenue has declined due to the small number of customers and minimal number of daily retail transactions. The Postal Service feels continued operations of the Auburn Post Office may not be warranted. The Troy Post Office, along with established Highway Contract Route delivery will provide regular and effective service to the Auburn community.

The Auburn Post Office, an EAS-11 level, provides service from 8:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 4:30 Monday - Friday, 9:30 to 10:30 Saturday and lobby hours of 8:00 to 4:30 on Monday - Friday and 9:30 to 10:30 on Saturday to 47 post office box or general delivery customers and 120 delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 45 transaction(s) accounting for 40 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by highway contract route service. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$14,326 (37 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$13,300 (35 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$11,241 (29 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were no permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On April 08, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at Auburn Community Building to answer questions and provide information to customers. 70 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On March 21, 2011, 180 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Auburn Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Auburn Post Office. 54 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 3 favorable, 14 unfavorable, and 37 expressed no opinion.

One congressional inquiry was received on April 18, 2011.

A petition supporting the retention of the Auburn Post Office was received on June 27, 2011, with 275 signatures.

When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Troy Post Office, an EAS-13 level office. Window service hours at the Troy Post Office are from 8:00 to 12:00 - 12:30 to 16:15, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 to 10:15 on Saturday. There are 37 post office boxes available.

The proposal to close the Auburn Post Office was posted with an invitation for comment at the Auburn Post Office and Troy Post Office from June 01, 2011 to August 02, 2011. The following additional concerns were received during the proposal posting period:

1. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about leaving money in the mailbox.
Response: A questionnaire was sent to the postal inspection service concerning mail theft and vandalism in the Auburn Post Office area. Their records indicate that there has been two reports of mail theft or vandalism in the area. However, customers may place a note in their mailboxes instructing the carrier to sound their horn when they arrive, in order to transact financial business.
2. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about leaving money in the mailbox.
Response: The Rural Carrier buys your stamps for you at the end of the day when he finish's the route. Since he is based out of Troy WV, that is the most convenient place for him to buy stamps and then sort it for delivery to you the next day. Customers may place a note in their mailboxes instructing the carrier to sound their horn when they arrive, in order to transact financial business.
3. **Concern:** Customers asked why their post office was being discontinued while others were retained.
Response: Post offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.
4. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern about collection of outgoing mail.

Response:

Collection of mail will be made by the carrier when serving the route. The customer should raise the flag on the mailbox to alert the carrier that outgoing mail is to be collected from the mailbox.

5. Concern:

Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to the Troy Post Office to pick up their mail.

Response:

Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the administrative postmaster.

6. Concern:

Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community.

Response:

The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.

7. Concern:

Customers felt inclement weather and poor road conditions might impede delivery.

Response:

Both inclement weather and heavy mail volume can cause deviations from the normal delivery schedule. However, the carrier is required to provide a vehicle of adequate size, equipped with necessary equipment (chains or snow tires, warning lights or signs, etc.) to serve the route safely and efficiently and in accordance with federal, state, and local motor vehicle laws and regulations.

8. Concern:

Customers were concerned about later delivery of mail.

Response:

A customer's location on a carrier's line of travel determines the time of day mail is delivered. This, of course, precludes providing early delivery of mail to every customer because, no matter how we structure a route, somebody must be last. We do, however, carefully consider the volume of mail for each route so that we can deliver the greatest amount of mail at the earliest possible hour. With the largest fleet of delivery vehicles in the world we must pay special attention to energy conservation measures, to minimize vehicle and fuel expenses. When the price of gasoline goes up one cent per gallon our total gasoline cost rises more than \$8 million. Therefore, when structuring a route, we must balance our goal to deliver as much mail as possible as early as possible with the need to minimize the travel distance a route must cover.

9. Concern:

Customers were concerned about mail security.

Response:

Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.

10. Concern:

Customers were concerned about obtaining accountable mail and large parcels.

Response:

If you live less than one-half mile from the line of travel, the carrier will attempt delivery of accountable items and large parcels to the customer's residence. If the live over one-half mile away or is not home when delivery is attempted, a notice will be left in the mailbox. Large parcels will be left outside the mailbox or at a designated location or a notice will be left in the mailbox. Attempted delivery items will be taken back to the administrative Post Office. Customers may pick up the item at the post office, request redelivery on another day or authorize delivery to another party.

11. Concern:

Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier.

Response:

Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using Form 3227-R, Stamp Purchase Order (Rural), available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

HOLDING MAIL

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

12. Concern:

Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

Response:

Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.

13. Concern:

You expressed a concern that you don't qualify for rural delivery service.

Response:

There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be at least 14 feet wide and maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel. You can ask for an extension of delivery (PS FORM 4027) if you feel you may qualify for this service.

14. Concern:

You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service.

Response:

Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

15. Concern:

Customer voiced several concerns with the proposal to close.

Response:

The estimated cost of the replacement service is based on the amount of post office boxes and miles added to the route. The amount of retail transactions does not factor into the contract. As with any change, there will be a period of adjustment that will require the Postal Service to review the route schedule and possibly require time changes. Mail security explains that a lock may be placed on the mailbox with a slot large enough to handle the daily volume of mail. There is not a 100% safe way to have mail delivered, we only can suggest deterrents (i.e. locks on Post Office doors and mailboxes). The 911 addresses issued by your county commission will be used for rural style street delivery addressing. The HCR carrier is required to maintain a daily schedule that stays within a 15 minute timeframe. Based on mail volume and weather this could sometimes be slowed down. Bad weather is also a concern with meeting the carrier at the mailbox, however the Postal Service offers stamps by mail and on-line postage and package pick-up notifications. That would eliminate having to meet the carrier at the mailbox. Routes are set up for the most efficient line of travel and delivery. When a routes line of travel is not efficient a route adjustment will be ordered.

16. Concern:

Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.

Response:

Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

17. Concern:

The Save the Auburn Post Office Committee submitted concerns and possible errors in the official record docket nr. 1353656-26325.

Response:

Item Nbr: 1 Page Nbr. 1 - A correction to the official record has been made to reflect the Postmaster retired on Jan 30, 2010. Item Nbr: 7 Page 2 - The picture represents the exit from the Auburn post office. Item Nbr. 13 Page Nbr 1. This form was the Administrative postmaster/OIC comments form and will not be changed. The additional business were added to Item Nbr 18 and will be included in the Revised proposal. Item 14-2 - The County Sheriff and Postal Inspection Service were notified of the study and asked to respond with details of any vandalism reports. Item Nbr. 15 Page Nbr. 1 - Para 1, The information given was added to reflect separate entrances. Para 7, The information concerning the PMR was added to reflect loyal service. Para 14, Customers have the option of placing a lock on their rural mailbox or purchasing a rural type mailbox that comes with a lock and key. Rural delivery provides customers the opportunity to receive their mail at their home thereby eliminating the need to travel to and from the Post Office. Item Nbr. 16, Page Nbr 1&2 - The information given was added to Item 16. Item Nbr. 21 Page Nbr 1 - This will show corrected in the revised proposal. Item no. 23 Page No. 1 - 180 questionnaires were distributed to the Auburn community via Post Office box and HCR deliveries in the community. All returned customer questionnaires will be included in the official record. Item Nbr. 24 pages 1 thru 4 - There were only 70 signatures on the Community meeting roster. Item Nbr 26 page 1 - The retirement date has been changed, the correction will show on the revised copy. Item Nbr. 27 page Nbr 1 - The petition was received after the proposal to close was posted in the Auburn post office. The petition has been added to the official record. Item Nbr 29. Page Nbr 2 - The economic savings is based on current figures and does not include possible negotiations. Postmaster reliefs are not career employees and cannot be used as a permanent replacement. The US Postal Service is required to maintain 6 day delivery. CBU's are very low maintenance, keys are issued with the assignment of your CBU box and the Postal Service will review the community for donated space to place the CBU's. Item Nbr 33, Page Nbr 2. 1) The postmaster dates have been changed and will show corrected on the revised proposal. 2) The Postal Service is currently undergoing organizational changes, each post office is required to meet certain requirements, if not met a post office review study will be initiated. Item Nbr. 33 Page Nbr 3 9) There are a number of rural type locking mailboxes that does not allow a hand to reach inside. In accordance with the Post Office Manual 101, Chapter 2, Section 25, paragraph 251. The Post Office community meeting can be held anytime after the questionnaire is sent and before any final determination is expected to be made. There were 3 weeks notice given prior to the community meeting date. A second community meeting is not scheduled.

18. **Concern:** Customer expressed a concern about package delivery and pickup.
- Response:** Rural carriers will deliver packages that fit in your rural mail box, if the package does not fit in the mail box, the carrier will deliver the package up to ½ mile off of the line of travel, at a designated place, such as on your porch or under a carport.
19. **Concern:** Customer expressed concern over the possibility of traveling further to mail parcels.
- Response:** Carrier Pickup(USPS.com): This service allows customers to schedule the pickup of their mail piece(s) at the same time their mail is delivered by their carrier. There is no additional charge for Carrier Pickup when the mail can be picked up during the carrier's line of travel. When a customer schedules this service via the Internet, it alerts the Postmaster via a computer application that generates carrier instructions for customer Carrier Pickup requests.
20. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about a change of ZIP Code.
- Response:** The proposed change of the ZIP Code may be necessary due to 911 addressing requirements.
21. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the quality of service, reliability, and integrity of the contractor.
- Response:** Award of the contract is based on evaluation of criteria including annual monetary amount, contractor ability and background, and the quality and location of the facility. The successful bidder must be bonded and will be trained, administered, and supervised by the Postal Service to ensure high standards of service.
22. **Concern:** You expressed a concern that customers requested and were denied rural delivery service
- Response:** There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be at least 14 feet wide and maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel.

Some advantages of the proposal are:

1. The rural and contract carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

Some disadvantages of the proposal are:

1. The loss of a retail outlet. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Auburn is an unincorporated community located in RITCHIE County. The community is administered politically by the City of Auburn. Police protection is provided by the Ritchie County Sheriff's Department and the WV State Police. Fire protection is provided by the Volunteer Fire Department. The community is comprised of Cottage industry commuters, farmers, retirees, gas company employees and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Auburn Baptist, Auburn Methodist, The Church of God, Auburn Wo He Lo 4-H Club, Auburn Community Assoc, Auburn Community Educational Outreach, Auburn Cash and Carry, Sunny Hollow Farm, Black Bear Historical Clothing, Town of Aubrun, I No Tech, Auburn Pay Pond, Hire a Hubby, Osborne Construction, Bi-Con Services, Dominion Transmission Inc and the Country Cabinet Maker . Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Auburn Post Office will be available at the Troy Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Troy Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

1. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.

Response: A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Auburn Post Office name and ZIP Code.
2. **Concern:** Customers stated the town was incorporated and should have a postmaster.

Response: The incorporated status of a town has no bearing on its requirements for postal services.
3. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the loss of a gathering place and an information center.

Response: Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.
4. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to the Troy Post Office to pick up their mail.

Response: Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the administrative postmaster.
5. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

Response: Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will not adversely affect the community.

III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on January 30, 2010. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the Postal Service. No other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office.

IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$ 47,804 with a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster Salary (EAS-11, No COLA)	\$ 33,168
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 11,111
Annual Lease Costs	<u>+ \$ 7,155</u>
Total Annual Costs	\$ 51,434
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	<u>- \$ 3,630</u>
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 47,804</u>

A one-time expense of \$ 1200 will be incurred for the movement of this facility.

V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

VI. SUMMARY

This is the final determination to close the Auburn, WV Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by highway contract route service under the administrative responsibility of the Troy Post Office, located nine miles away. Service will be provided to cluster box units (CBUs).

The postmaster retired on January 30, 2010. If the office has a noncareer PMR(s), they may be separated from the Postal Service; however, attempts will be made to reassign the employee(s) to a nearby facility. No other employee(s) will be adversely affected. The workload has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by highway contract route service.

The Auburn Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 47 PO Box or general delivery customers and 120 delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged 45. There are no permit mailers or postage meter customers.

There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a Post Office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$47,804 annually. A disadvantage to some will be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this final determination is warranted.

VII. NOTICES

- A. **Support Materials.** Copies of all materials upon which this final determination is based are available for public inspection at the Auburn Post Office and Troy Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. **Appeal Rights.** This final determination to close the Auburn Post Office may be appealed by any person served by that office to the Postal Regulatory Commission at 901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20268-0001. Appeals must be received by the Commission within 30 days of the date this final determination is posted. If an appeal is filed, copies of appeal documents prepared by the Postal Regulatory Commission or the parties to the appeal will be made available for public inspection at Auburn Post Office and Troy Post Office during normal office hours.



Dean J Granholm
Vice President of Delivery and Post Office Operations

08/30/2011

Date

Highway Contract Route Cost Analysis Form

Highway Contract Route Estimated Cost for Alternative Service

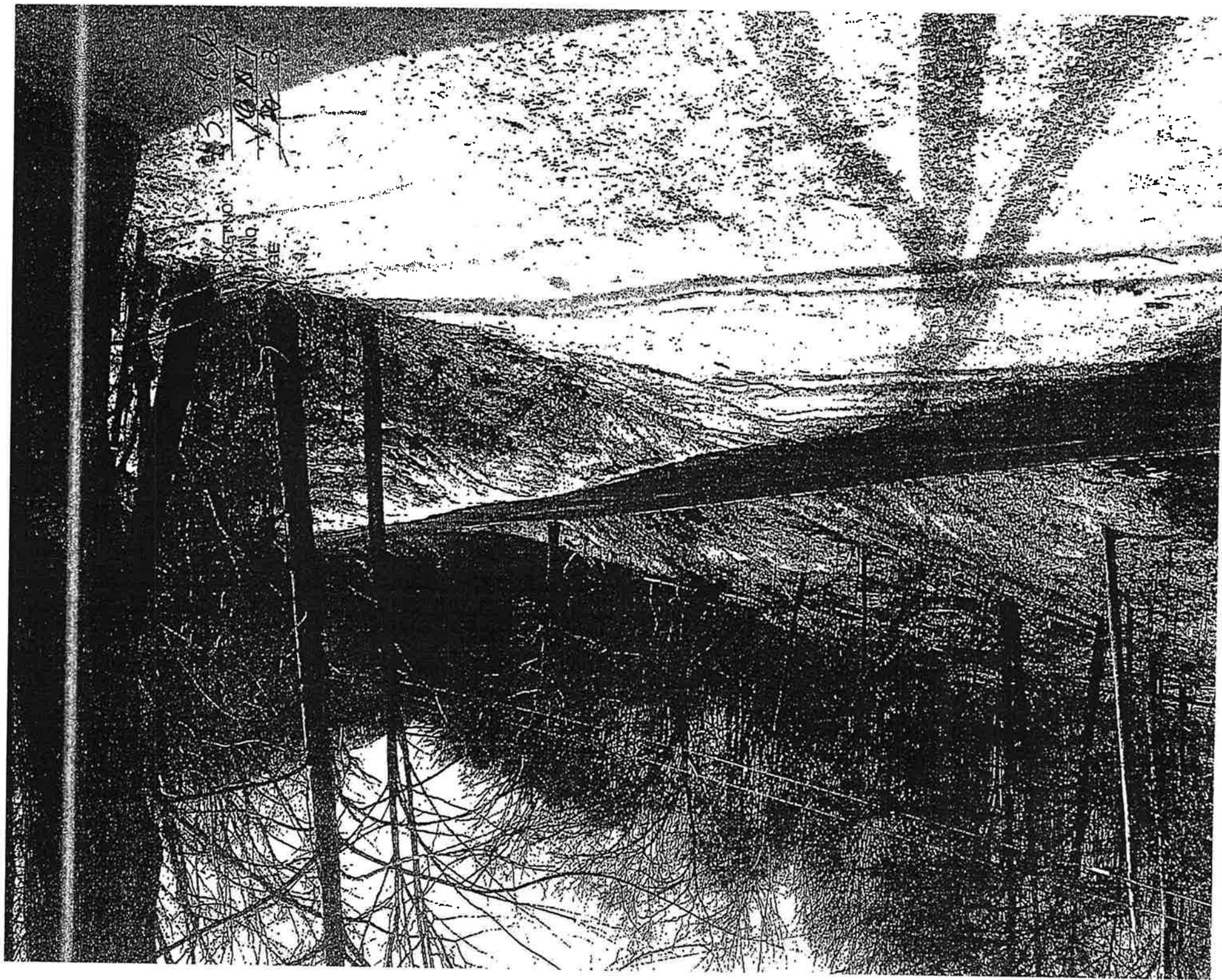
Office Name: AUBURN
Office Zip+4: 26325-9998

District: APPALACHIAN PFC

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Enter the number of additional boxes to be added to the route | <u>47</u> | x 3.64 hours per year | <u>171.08</u> |
| 2. | Enter the number of additional miles to be added to the route | <u>2.00</u> | x 10.40 hours per year | <u>20.80</u> |
| | | | Total time added to the route | <u>191.88</u> |
| 3. | Enter the HCR hourly rate
(Contact Area Manager, Purchasing/Contracting Officer) | | | <u>18.92</u> |
| | Total additional compensation (HCR hourly rate x total time added to the route) | | | <u>3,630.37</u> |

35656
1087
1087

NO. 1087
1087



PETITION TO KEEP THE AUBURN POST OFFICE OPEN

Petition summary and background	Auburn Post Office has been here before West Virginia was a state (Bone Creek, VA.) The next post office is ten miles. Rising gas prices would cost us to get money orders, packages etc. Would not significantly save Post Office money because it would cost more to run the route. He has trouble making dispatch now.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge Post Office Management to act now to keep the Auburn, WV Post Office open.

[illegible]

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Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge Post Office Management to act now to keep the Auburn, WV Post Office open.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Ronald Haught	Ronald Haught		own Property in area	3/25/2011
Lou Haught	Lou Haught		own property on Auburn Rd	3/25/2011
Bethel Baker	Bethel Baker			3/25/2011
DALE YOUNG	Dale Young		WE USED OUR POST OFF	3-26-2011
Pam Crouch	Pam Crouch		own closest post office	3-26-2011
Mary C Goff	Mary C Goff		more convenient	3-26-2011
J.F. Moore Jr.	J.F. Moore Jr.			3-31-2011
Suzetta Burton	Suzetta Burton			4-1-2011
Jack Furry	Jack Furry		Live in Auburn & I DO USE the P.O.	4-7-2011
Carolyn Oldham	Carolyn Oldham		I USE the P.O. very often	4-7-2011
Phyllis Grove	Phyllis Grove		Use post office all the time - don't close	4-7-2011

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
W. Barry Mullins	W Barry Mullins			3-23-11
Ernie Bradley	Ernie Bradley			3-23-11
DON MAGUIRE	Don McGuire			3-23-11
Jenna Smith				3-23-11
Paul Smith				3/23/11
Matthew Smith				3/23/11
Ron Wolf	Ron Wolf			3/23/11
Lisa Dickel				3/23/11
Deb Collier Ground	Deb Collier Ground		✓	3/23/11
George Gephhardt	George Gephhardt		✓	3/23/11
Yvonne D Gephhardt	Yvonne D Gephhardt		✓	3/23/11
Carmen Morris	Carmen J. Morris		✓	3/23/11

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Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge Post Office Management to act now to keep the Auburn, WV Post Office open.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Cheryl Gragg	Cheryl Gragg			3-23-11
Shane Gragg	Shane Gragg			3-23-11
Chelsea Gragg	Chelsea Gragg			3/23/11
Hollie Gragg	Hollie Gragg			3-23-11
Kathy Hickman	Kathy Hickman			3-23/11
James Hickman	James Hickman			3/23/11
Stella Whatley	Stella Whatley			3/23/11
Mary Hickman	Mary Hickman			3/23/11
Nelson Hickman	Nelson Hickman			3/23/11
Richard Workman	Richard Workman			3/26/11
Jackie Lacey	Jackie Lacey		WV	3/26/11
Shawn Workman	Shawn Workman			3/26/11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Frank Morris	Frank Morris			3/23/11
Lindsay Morris	Lindsay Morris			3-23-11
Joe Morris				3-23-11
Christina Gillespie	Christina Gillespie			3-23-11
John Gillespie				3-23-11
William Cronmiller	William Cronmiller			3-23-11
Gene Goff	Gene Goff			3-23-11
Jill Goff	Jill Goff			" "
Carol Carter	Carol Carter			3/23/11
GARY CARTER	Wes. Carter		27	3/23/11
JIM J	BURANETTE			3/23/11
MARGARET WORKMAN	M. Workman		119	3/24/11

Petition to Keep the Auburn Post Office Open

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Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge Post Office Management to act now to keep the Auburn, WV Post Office open.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Joe Hayes	Joseph Hayes		we own home in ^{Auburn} us	3/31/11
Yeth Woodall	Yeth Woodall		we own home in us	3/31/11
Nickie Hayes	Nickie Hayes		own home in Auburn WV	3/31/11
Joe K. Hayest Jr	Joseph Jr		We need Postoffice	3/31/11
Rim Litbaree	Jana Labarre		I live in S.C. my mother Auburn WV	3/28/11
Jannefire Hays	Jannet Hayes		Parents own home Auburn WV	3/31-11
Risty Wough	Risty Wough		Parents - Auburn WV	3-31-11
Leah Hamey	Leah Hamey		Lives there my mom	4-2-11
Tonesh Blewies	Tonesh Blewies		they need the Postoffice	4/3-11
Josh Hayes	Josh Hayes		my mom need Postoffice	4-1-11
Harry Kessler	Harry Kessler		Disabled Not good	4/4/11
Larry Kessler	Larry Kessler		Hearth	4/4/11

Petition to Keep the Auburn Post Office Open

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Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge Post Office Management to act now to keep the Auburn, WV Post Office open.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Eileen Peave	Eileen Peave	Mast	Elderly People	3/21/11
Bruce Blum	Bruce Blum		Needed	3-20-11
Douglas Blum	Douglas Blum		Needed-	3/25/11
Jilly McAllester	Jilly McAllester		Needed	3/22/11
Richard McAllester	Richard McAllester		Needed	3/22/11
Todd Hunt	Todd Hunt		Need ant.	3/22/11
John Clark	John Clark		Sister in law	3/24/11
Evelyn Clark	Evelyn Clark		Sister - all family	3/24/11
Marg Waugh	Marg Waugh		Sister to Eileen	3/24/11
Lorin Griver	Lorin Griver		Realtime Friend	3/28/11
Wen Griver	Wen Griver		Patricia Friend	3/28/11
Louise Gumbert	Louise Gumbert		24325	3/31/11
Judy Johnson	Judy Johnson		unregulatee cubert wv	3/31/11
Jakob	Jakob			3/31/11

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[illegible]

Petition to Keep the Auburn Post Office Open

Petition summary and background	Auburn Post Office has been here before West Virginia was a state (Bone Creek, Va.) The next post office is ten miles. Rising gas prices would cost us to get money orders, packages etc. Would not significantly save Post Office money because it would cost more to run the route. He has trouble making dispatch now.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge Post Office Management to act now to keep the Auburn, WV Post Office open.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Amy Marks	Amy Marks		we need it here in Auburn.	3-27-11
Liza Lilly	Liza Lilly			3-27-11
Tommy Lilly	Lilly Tommy			3-27-11
Larry Lilly	Larry Lilly			3-27-11
Susan Hardbarger	Susan Hardbarger			3-27-11
Alisa B. Hardbarger	Alisa B. Hardbarger			3-27-11
Greg Hardbarger	Greg Hardbarger		Ad,	3-27-11
Mary Fowler				4-1-11
Bob W. W. W.	Bob W. W. W.			4-4-11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Violet Hardbarger	Violet Hardbarger			3-26-11
Dustin Haddox	Dustin W Haddox			3/26/11
Ashley Haddox	Ashley Haddox			3-26-11
Daniel Hoosier	Daniel Hoosier			3-26-11
Stephanie Crouch	Stephanie Crouch			3-26-11
Wilma Hoosier	Wilma Hoosier			3-26-11
Tanya Osborne	Tanya Osborne			3-26-11
CHESTER OSBORNE	Chester Osborne Jr			3-26-11
Julie Pratt	Julie Pratt			3-26-11
Paul Wolfe Sr	Paul Wolfe Sr			3-26-11
Shirley Wolfe	Shirley Wolfe			3-26-11
Brad Hardbarger	Brad Hardbarger			3-27-11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
John A Dillon	John A Dillon			3-22-11
Darrell Riggs	Darrell Riggs			3-22-11
Delmas ^{DeKeeby}	DELMAS MCKINNEY			3-22-11
David Hendrick	David Hendrick			3/23/11
JACKIE HARBARGER	JACKIE HARBARGER			3/23/11
Jason Jones	Jason Jones			3/23/11
Dolores Turner	Dolores Turner			3-23-11
IRA ROBINSON	IRA ROBINSON			3-23-11
Roger Eddy	Roger Eddy			3-23-11
River Lane	River Lane			3-23-11
Way Frederick	Way Frederick			3-23-11
Bo Lowther	Bo Lowther			

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Beverly Dawson	Beverly Dawson			3/22/11
WILLIAM BURNSIDE	William Burnside		WE NEED OUR POST OFFICES	3/22/11
Brian Richeson	Brian Richeson			3-22-11
Brian Myers	Brian Myers			22 Mar 11
Drema Pennington	Drema Pennington			3-22-11
Kathleen Carpenter	Kathleen Carpenter			3-22-11
Bob Lump	Bob Lump			3-22-11
Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas			3-22-11
Frank McDonald	Frank McDonald			3-22-11
James Dink	James Dink			3-22-11
Janet Edwards	Janet Edwards			3-22-11
Bruce Robinson	Bruce Robinson			3-22-11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Teresa Dook	Teresa Dook			3/23/11
Linda Osborne	Linda Osborne			3/23/11
Paul Montgomery	Paul Montgomery			3/23/11
Paul Montgomery	Paul Montgomery			3/23/11
Dennett Osborne	Dennett Osborne			3/23/11
Kathy McHenry	Kathy McHenry			3/23/11
Susan Tustin	Susan Tustin			3-23-11
Corey Backer	Corey Backer			3-23-11
James Green	James Green			3-23-11
Carol Cottrell	Carol Cottrell			3-23-11
Donna Cottrell	Donna Cottrell			3-23-11
Georgia Lamp	Georgia Lamp			3-23-11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
GAIL COTTRILL	Gail Cottrill		inconvenience to residents	3-22-11
Matthew Hunter	Matthew Hunter		"	3-22-11
DONALD SAIGSBOY	Donald Saigsboy		can	
Laura Dodd	Laura Dodd		inconvenient for residents	
MAX Dodd	Max Dodd		WV " "	
Joe Spivey	Joe Spivey		GREENWOOD	26463
Joshua Montgomery	Joshua Montgomery			3/22/11
Victoria L. Utt	Victoria L. Utt		inconvenient for residents	3/23/11
Connie Westfall	Connie Westfall		inconvenient for residents	3/23/11
Cecil + Carolyn Reed	Cecil + Carolyn Reed			3/23/11
Karen Griffin	Karen S. D.H.			3-23-11
Jeremy Baske	JB			3-24-11
Mildred Lemasters	Mildred Lemasters			3-24-11

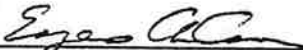

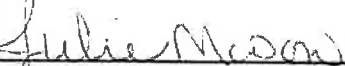






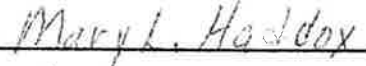

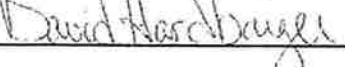
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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Ray Bailey	Ray Bailey		don't want to close	3/25/11
BETTY YOKA	Betty Yoka		Clean Property	3-25-11
MILFORD YOKA	Milford Yoka			3-25-11
Ronald Osborne	Ronald Osborne			3-25-11
Liz Osborne	Liz Osborne			3-25-11
Chris Osborne	Chris Osborne			3-25-11
Trish Osborne	Trish Osborne		Own Property	3-25-11
John Osborne	John Osborne		Clean Property	3-25-11
Jeleigh West	Jeleigh West		Gas prices are too high to be going further.	3-25-11
Dreama Osborne	Dreama Osborne			3/25/11
Chester Osborne	Chester Osborne			3/25/11
Jason Stitt	Jason Stitt		Keep Post Office Open	4/2/11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Eugene Adams				Mar. 22-2011
Nathan Adams				3-22-2011
Julie Mason				3-24-11
Steven Hornby				3-24-11
Glacey Riddle				4-3-11
Jerry H. Riddle				4-3-11
Barbara A. Ruff				4-3-11
Barbara E. Watson				4-3-11
David W. Watson				4-3-11
Mary L. Haddox				4-3-11
Kim Hardsanger			Please keep the POST OFFICE...	4-4-2011
David Hardsanger				4-4-2011

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Patricia Dawson	Patricia Dawson		Keep the Post Office!!	4-4-10
Dustin Dawson	Dustin Dawson			4-4-10
Jessica Walton	Jessica Walton		KEEP it OPEN	4-4-11
Rita Wheeler	Rita Wheeler		Keep it open	4-4-11
Donna Doherty	Donna Doherty		Keep it open	4-4-11
Betty Hardberger	Betty Hardberger		Keep it open	4-4-11
Kenneth Hardberger	Kenneth Hardberger		Keep it open	4-4-11
Jerry Jackson	Jerry Jackson		Keep the Post Office open	4-4-11

X

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
HERSHEL WHITE	Hershel White		Sisters that live in town and would be a great convenience to them	3-24-11
Samantha Blizzard	Samantha Blizzard		I get college Apps, mail will take to long to get to me. Don't like that it will take days to get	3-30-11
Brenda K White	Brenda K White		Sister pick up my mail for me and takes care of my business.	3-30-11
Normaleen Collins	Normaleen Collins		disabled) Live close to post office	4-4-11
Elizabeth Jones	Elizabeth Jones		Use post office for package	4-4-11
Ralph Blankenship	Ralph Blankenship		Keep our office more convenient	4-4-11
Sandy Blankenship	Sandy Blankenship		Keep our Post office more convenient	4-4-11
Jacob Dodd	Jacob Dodd		More convenient to keep our office easy to get mail	4-4-11
Elaine Casto	Elaine Casto			4-8-11
David Casto	David Casto		It's convenient for the people with disabilities	4-8-11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Renee Sparks	Renee Sparks		closing down our post office would hurt everyone in town because gas prices.	2-22-11
Teresa Sparks	Teresa Sparks		what about the people that are not able to travel 20 miles to take care of their business with the gas prices now we are supposed to afford it.	2-23-11
Thay Hickman	Thay Hickman		going to move to Auburn would like to have a post office.	2-23-11
Joshua Jones	Joshua Jones		people that are on fixed income afford to go 20 miles for a trip to check mg.	2-23-11
Allen Blackburn	Allen Blackburn		I barely keep gas in my car now, let alone 20 extra miles a day. Our PO is very much needed.	2-23-11
Venda Godfrey	Venda Godfrey		mail-time is earlier than delivery, which is very convenient for alot of residents in our town. Delivery by car is not a choice for us.	2-23-11
Randall Osborne	Randall Osborne		im not here all the time this is my get away place i dont want my mail sitting in a box.	2-23-11
Shelia Spry	Shelia Spry		i also use it to get my mail and i dont want it to be imp.	2-23-11
Kathy Osborne	Kathy Osborne		WE NEED IT!!	4-8-11
James R. Osborne	James R. Osborne		WE NEED IT!!	4-8-11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Cleona Hoover	Cleona Hoover		They need their P.O. in their own town	4-6-11
Gayford Hoover	Gayford Hoover		These people need their Post Office	4-6-11
Ralph Jackson	Ralph Jackson			4/7/11
NANCY V CHARLTON	Nancy V. Charlton		WE NEED TO KEEP ALL OF THE SMALL P.O.'S	4/7/11
TRACY D. FREED	Tracy D. Freed		LET'S WORK FOR THE PEOPLE - NOT YOURSELVES	4/7/11
John Davis	John Davis		Save	04-06-11
Lowell M Clark	Lowell Clark		SAVE JOBS	4/6/11
Loretha Sunderman	Loretha Sunderman		Save Jobs + add to community	4/8/11

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[illegible]

100-443887-1000

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Connie Stump	Connie Stump			3/22/11
Valerie Henry	Valerie Henry			3/22/11
Priscilla Bailey	Priscilla Bailey			3/22/11
Melissa Peggs	Melissa Peggs			3/22/11
Kayla Peggs	Kayla Peggs			3/22/11
Doug Cottrell				3/22/11
Werna Powers	Werna Powers			3/22/11
Kay Allen	Kay Allen			3-22-11
Karen Elkin	Karen Elkin			3-22-11
Daniel Ramsey	Daniel Ramsey			3-22-11
Robert Nicholas	Robert Nicholas			3-22-11
Beth Smockgrass	Beth Smockgrass			3-22-11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
April Jenkins	<i>April Jenkins</i>		Don't close	3/23
Barbara Blankenship	<i>Barbara Blankenship</i>		Don't close!	3/23
Don Jenkins	<i>Don Jenkins</i>			3/23
Roxanne Bright	<i>Roxanne Bright</i>			3/23
Donna Rowland	<i>Donna Rowland</i>		Don't close	3-23
A. DAVIS	<i>A. Davis</i>		Don't close	3/23
Mary Dennison	<i>Mary Dennison</i>		DO NOT CLOSE	3/23
Rebecca Marks	<i>Rebecca Marks</i>		Do not close, we lost our 50¢ stamps! Mail really by loss 3/23	3/23
Jamie McKay	<i>Jamie McKay</i>		Don't close	3/23
Shirley Sartin	<i>Shirley Sartin</i>		Don't close	3/23
Darlene Naylor	<i>Darlene Naylor</i>		Don't close	3/23
Ashley Luck	<i>Ashley Luck</i>		Don't Close This	3/23

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Nicole Riffle	Nicole Riffle		Keep it open	3/21/11
Siena Osborne	Siena Osborne		Our community needs OUR Post Office!!	3/22/11
Virginia Yeager	Virginia Yeager		The Post Office in Auburn needs to stay open.	3/22/11
Jason Gurn	Jason Gurn			3/22/11
Tisha Underwood	Tisha Underwood			3-22-11
Leticia Barr	Leticia Barr			3-22-11
Cathy Gibson	Cathy Gibson		Please let us keep our Post office.	3/22/11
Samantha Boone	Samantha Boone			3/22/11
Diana Milan	Diana Milan		SAVE THE P.O	3/22/11
Mary Skidmore	Mary Skidmore		Save it	3-22-11
Denise Sprouse	Denise Sprouse			3-22-11
Jamie Mullins	Jamie Mullins			3-22-11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Emo Vanderp	Emo Van. Vanderp			4-8-2011
Geraldine Lusk	Geraldine Lusk			4-8-2011
Kevin Sheets	Kevin Sheets			4-8-2011
JOHN RIDDLE	John Riddle			
RICK BULZARD	Rick Bulzard			4-8-11
Linda Bland	Linda Bland			4-8-11
GERALD BARTLEY	Gerald B. Bartley			4-8-11
BRAY L. W.	Larry L. Bray			4-8-11
Linda Bray	Linda Bray			4-8-11
DAVID H. CORCORAN	David H. Corcoran			4/8/11
Rocky Grove	Rocky H. Grove			4/8
James Lowther	James B. Lowther			4/8/2011

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